HISTORIC SITES
of
ALBERTA

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By

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Contents

Introduction

MANY historic sites in Alberta are located amid the settings of natural beauty and are viewed with interest by thousands of visitors annually.

Some of these sites are marked by cairns of the Historical Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, others by the Provincial Government, while still others have been preserved by local groups interested in keeping alive some of the history of Alberta.

This western province has had a colorful career that should be of interest not only to local residents, but to visitors and tourists from all parts of the world. Alberta has seen the fur traders and the buffalo, the whiskey traders and the Indians, the North-West Mounted Police and the cultural development of a pioneering people.

Carelessness and lack of interest in the past has caused the destruction of many sites of historic interest. Every Alberta citizen is urged to help preserve and protect the many sites that still lie unmarked within the Province.

INDIANS

The buffalo once wandered the prairies in uncounted millions and was the main source of food for the Indians. But ruthless slaughter by hide hunters in the 1870's and 1880's soon brought the animal near extinction. The only buffalo alive today are in zoos or national parks.

CHAPTER I

PLAINS BUFFALO

One of the most important animals in the economic life of the Plains Indians was the buffalo. This shaggy beast which roamed the prairies by the millions provided many necessities for the native peoples. It gave them food, clothing, dwellings, utensils, religious regalia, paints and numerous other articles. When the fur traders came, they too made use of the buffalo. It provided pemmican, clothing and robes, as well as a regular supply of fresh meat. The buffalo were so numerous that it was thought they were inexhaustible.

But the introduction of the repeating rifle and the demand for hides caused a great wanton slaughter, particularly during the 1870's and 1880's. By 1906 only a handful remained in private herds. In that year, Canada purchased about 700 head from a Montana rancher and ship-

ped them to parks in Alberta. This was the last remaining large herd on the continent.

Today Alberta still has large herds at Elk Island and Wood Buffalo National Parks and other small herds at Banff and Waterton.

In honor of the buffalo, a cairn was erected in Elk Island Park by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board, while the Alberta Government has placed rustic signs near Airdrie, Lamont and Wainwright.

EARLY MAN SITE

The first professional archaeological expedition in Alberta in 1948 unearthed the relics of two separate Indian cultures at a site located 12 miles north and west of Fort Macleod. A Provincial cairn has been erected to mark the site.

Located at the base of a buffalo pound, the site has revealed material such as arrow heads, scrapers and

5

crude pottery made at least 3,000 years ago. One "dig" was 11 feet deep and revealed crude materials, while the other was near the surface and contained relics showing more craftsmanship. The project was sponsored by the University of New Mexico and was under the direction of Boyd Wettlaufer.

WRITING-ON-STONE

In the valley of the Milk River, about 75 miles southeast of Lethbridge, is a small area of sandstone cliffs on which are inscribed ancient picture writing.

The first known white man to see these pictographs was James Doty, who visited the site in 1855. He wrote: "They (the sandstone rocks) are worn by the action of the weather into a thousand fantastic shapes, presenting in places smooth perpendicular surfaces, covered with rude hieroglyphics and representations of men, horses, guns, bows, shields, etc., in the usual Indian style.

"No doubt this has been done by wandering War Parties who have here recounted their coups or feats of war or horse stealing and inscribed them upon these rocks."

In the 1890's many Indians believed the carvings had been made by spirits. One Blackfeet told of a youth who left his war party and "advanced to the stone and traced with his finger the wonderful writing which the spirits had made thereon. Whilst thus engaged his whole body was seized with trembling, weird voices were heard in the air, the ground shook with a violent tremor, and a feeling of helplessness took possession of the group."

Most of the pictographs are in groups and appear to portray some event such as a hunt, fight or raid. Some of the carved rocks have fallen or cracked over the years, while others have been damaged by vandals.

A cairn has been erected at this site by the Alberta Government.

THE RIBSTONES

Two large rocks, laboriously carved and chiselled with lines resembling the ribs of buffalo, are marked by a provincial cairn on the farm of L. G. Dobry, near Viking.

The ribstones are believed to have had a sacred meaning for the Indians of this area and were apparently carved in the pre-white era. Legend has it that Indians sacrificed buffalo on the stones at the start of each hunt, believing that the sacrifices would ensure success.

CROWFOOT

A federal cairn was unveiled in September, 1948, just south of Gleichen in honor of Crowfoot, the famous chief of the Blackfeet Indians.

In addition, the grave of this chief can be seen about four miles south of Cluny on the brow of a hill overlooking the river valley. Marking his grave is a metal cross inscribed: "Father of His People."

Crowfoot was a leader of his tribe during periods of war, transition and peace. Born about 1830, he astonished his own tribe by preaching peace among the warriors. But his strong personality won them over, and his band never rose in armed revolt against the whites in Canada.

When the Mounted Police came west in 1874, Crowfoot questioned them about the Great White Mother and her system of law. Later, he was the signer of Treaty Seven for his

Crowfoot, head chief of the Blackfeet Indians, became famous for his wise leadership and his ability to adapt to the changing times. A proud warrior, he became a proponent of peace when the Mounted Police arrived in the West and helped his people to accept life on a reserve.

people. When Crowfoot refused to join Sitting Bull in his fight against the white man, the Blackfeet chief explained his actions. "Tell the Great Mother," he told the Mounted Police, "we have been loyal and that we know she will not let her children starve."

Inscription on the cairn reads: "Crowfoot, Great Chief of the Blackfoot Confederacy. Born about 1830, died April 25, 1890. Fearless in war but lover of peace, he promoted amity among the tribes of the plains and friendship with the White Man. Under his leadership the Blackfoot ceded to the Crown title to her tribal lands in 1877, began to adopt a sedentary life, and remained loyal during the North West Rebellion of 1885.

His nobility of character, his gift of oratory and his wisdom in council gained for him the title 'Father of His People'."

RED CROW

A cairn has been erected by the Blood Indians in southern Alberta to pay tribute to their famous leader, Red Crow, who signed Treaty Seven on their behalf. The cairn is located on the west side of Highway No. 2, near Standoff.

During his reign from 1870 to 1900, Red Crow was famed throughout the west as a warrior, diplomat and orator. He led several important war parties against the Crees, Assiniboines and Crows, but when the buffalo began to disappear, he was the first to recognize the fact that the Indians would have to settle on reserves and live as farmers and ranchers.

During the Riel Rebellion, runners were sent by the rebelling Crees to the Bloods, but Red Crow refused to hear their words and hurled their peace offerings of tobacco into the fire. During his peaceful existence, he showed his progressive spirit by being the first Blood to build a house, the first to own cattle, the first to use oxen in farm work, and his wives were the first to bake bread.

He died in 1900 as peacefully as he lived in the last two decades of his life. Shortly before his death he was able to boast: "I was never struck by an enemy in my life—with bullet, arrow, axe, spear or knife." This was a great feat for a warrior who had killed numerous enemies and had once raided their camps from the Yellowstone to the Red Deer River.

7

MASKEPETOON (The Broken Arm)

A rustic sign on Highway No. 2 a short distance north of Hobbema honors a prominent Cree chief who gave his life in trying to bring peace to the warring native tribes.

The sign states: "Maskepetoon was a great chief of the Cree nation. He was a noted warrior and was feared by his enemies. But when the Methodist missionaries arrived in the mid-1800's he put aside the scalping knife and picked up the peace pipe. Henceforth he became a beloved peacemaker and friend of the missionaries. But civilization came too soon. In 1869, while attempting to make peace with the warlike Blackfeet, the old leader was cruelly murdered by an enemy chief. So died Maskepetoon, the martyr of peace."

POUNDMAKER

A Provincial marker to a controversial leader in the Riel Rebellion was erected near his grave in 1961. Poundmaker, a Cree, was adopted by Blackfeet chief Crowfoot and lived in his camp for several years. When he returned to his people in the Battleford country, he took with him horses and other gifts of prestige and wealth.

From this beginning he became a chief of his own people and took a prominent part in tribal affairs. He signed Treaty Six in 1876 and in 1881 he was an official guide to the Marquis of Lorne, Governor General of Canada.

When the Crees began settling on their reserves there was much discontent and Poundmaker was always active in attempting to gain better conditions for his following.
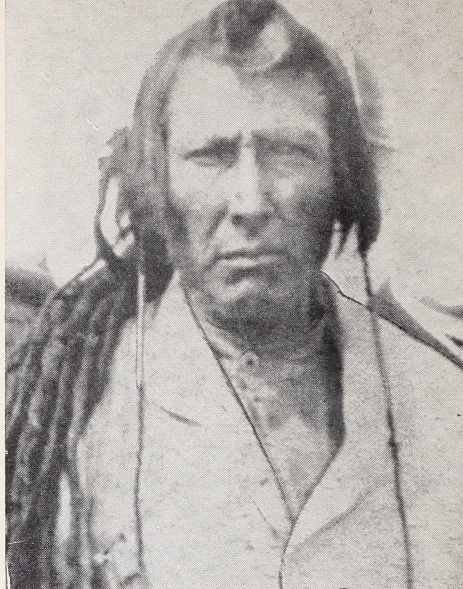
Fate dealt harshly with Poundmaker, a Cree Indian who was adopted by Crowfoot. He was sent to prison for his part in the Riel Rebellion and was photographed in his prison uniform. After his release he returned to the Blackfoot Reserve where he died a short time later.

He was classed as an undesirable agitator because of his outspoken nature and when the Riel Rebellion broke out in 1885, he found himself in the thick of it. Some of his followers looted buildings in nearby Battleford when their rations were not given to them. As a result, Col. W. D. Otter led an attack on the unsuspecting Cree camp on Cutknife Hill. In the ensuing battle Poundmaker used only a whip to urge his people in the protection of their women and children. When the attackers were finally repulsed, the Crees knew the soldiers could be easily ambushed on the difficult road back to Battleford. However, Poundmaker would not let them go in pursuit.

When Poundmaker surrendered, he was put on trial for "levying war

against Her Majesty." After the evidence was heard, Poundmaker said: "I am not guilty. What I did was for the Great Mother. When my people and the whites met in battle, I saved the Queen's men. I took the firearms from my following and gave them up at Battleford. Had I wanted war, I would not be here but on the prairie. You did not catch me. I gave myself up. You have me because I wanted peace."

Poundmaker was sentenced to three years in Stony Mountain Penitentiary but was released in the following year because of ill health. Travelling to his own reserve he encountered so much hostility from white settlers that he went to the Blackfoot Reserve to visit his foster father. There, while attending a Sun Dance, he had a hemorrhage and died on July 4th, 1886.

He was buried on the surface of the prairie overlooking Blackfoot Crossing and in about 1909 his remains were placed in the earth by artist Edmund Morris and a small pile of stones laid over it. The Provincial marker is located a few yards away.

MASSACRE BUTTE

On a prominent elevation two miles north of Cowley, off No. 3 Highway, an immigrant train of twelve men, women and children were massacred in 1867 by a war party of Blood Indians.

The party, led by a Blood warrior, Medicine Calf, struck while the group was in night camp. The only victim to be identified was a man named John Hoise. The victims were part of Captain Fiske's expedition from Minnesota and had left the main party in Montana.

The hill today is under cultivation but signs in the vicinity indicate the butte may have been used as a lookout for large Indian camps pitched on the flats of the Crowsnest River about a quarter mile from the hill. On the flats are still visible many stone "tepee rings" to denote Indian occupancy.

A cairn to mark the site of the massacre has been placed there by the Government of Alberta.

PEACE HILLS

A local cairn erected near the junction of Highways No. 2 and 13, north of Wetaskiwin, commemorates the signing of a peace treaty between the Blackfeet and the Crees. It was the signing of this treaty that gave Wetaskiwin (meaning Peace Hills) its name.

The cairn reads: "Wetaskiwin Spatinow. Erected July 1, 1927, in commemoration of treaty of peace made in these hills between the Blackfeet and Cree Indians. 1867."

LAST INDIAN BATTLE

A cairn erected by the Alberta Government in Indian Battle Park in Lethbridge and a rustic highway sign mark the last great Indian battle in Canada which was fought between the Blackfeet and the Crees.

In the fall of 1870, the Blackfeet on the Great Plains had been weakened by an epidemic of smallpox, and their enemies, the Crees, concluded it would be an excellent time to attack. A war party, headed by chiefs Big Bear, Piapot, Little Mountain and Little Pine, and made up of about 800 warriors, was organized from the ranks of the Crees and Assiniboines.

The Bloods and Blackfeet were then camped on the Oldman River, between Fort Kipp and Whoop-Up, while the South Peigans were camped on the St. Mary, above Fort Whoop-Up. The latter were well armed with repeating rifles and had retreated to Canada following a battle in Montana with the American Army. The Crees swooped down on one camp and succeeded in killing a brother of Red Crow and two or three Blood women. Other camps in the neighborhood were aroused and in a short time the Bloods were fiercely engaged in battle.

By morning, the South Peigans had arrived with their modern arms and the Crees began retreating across the prairie toward the present site of Lethbridge. The main fighting soon was carried on between two parallel coulees, until the Blackfeet attacked the Cree position in force. The latter broke and ran, discarding belongings and retreating toward the river. They were pursued across the Oldman and for several miles across the other side.

When the battle was over, the Crees had lost between 200 and 300 men, while the Blackfeet had 40 killed and 50 wounded. The following year, a formal peace treaty was made between the two nations, ending all hostilities.

TREATY No. SEVEN

A cairn has been erected on the bank overlooking Blackfoot Crossing on the Bow River in commemoration of the historic signing of Treaty Seven in 1877.

Blackfoot Crossing had always been a popular spot with the Indians, and the Mounted Police decided the restful atmosphere of the quiet valley would be an excellent place for the treaty talks. When the Indians gathered at Blackfoot Crossing in the fall of 1877, it was one of the largest groups of Indians ever formed at one spot on the Canadian Plains. It was estimated that the Indians had no fewer than 15,000 horses and ponies with them, and tepees lined the river for miles.

The warlike activities of the Blackfeet Indians captured the imaginations of many artists. This painting, entitled "Stampede by Blackfeet Indians," was by Alfred J. Miller.

The treaty, which was signed by the Blackfeet, Bloods, Peigans, Sarcees and Stonies, surrendered the tribal lands to the Government of Canada, and set aside suitable reserves for each tribe, as well as agreeing to treaty payments, food allowances and other benefits.

Inscribed on the cairn at Blackfoot Crossing is the following: "Cairn and tablet in the Blackfoot Indian Reserve to commemorate the signing of Indian Treaty No. 7 on the 22nd September, 1877, by the representatives of the Crown and the Indians, whereby the latter surrendered their rights to 50,000 square miles of territory lying in the south western corner of Alberta."

TREATY No. EIGHT

A rustic sign erected by the Government of Alberta on Highway No. 2 east of the Grouard turnoff bears this inscription:

"In 1899, the Canadian Government negotiated a treaty with the Indians of Northern Alberta to give up their titles to the land in exchange for reserves and treaty rights. The first negotiations were held about ten miles north of here and on June 21st the treaty was signed. The commission was headed by Hon. David Laird, while the chiefs included Moostoos, White Partridge and The Fish. The treaty party then travelled north for other meetings where they obtained the signatures of the Cree, Beaver and Chipewyan chiefs who lived in the area."

CREE INDIANS

A monument was erected in July, 1956, by the Samson Band Council, Hobbema Indian Agency, to commemorate the settling of the Cree Indians at that place in 1876.

The Crees were a nomadic people, but with the gradual disappearance of the buffalo and the signing of Treaty No. Six in 1876, the Crees under Chief Samson selected the area near the Bear Hills as their home. In 1877 they went to Blackfoot Crossing to officially sign their adhesion to the treaty and a few years later the reserve was surveyed.

The monument, which is located in front of Samson Community Hall, just east of Hobbema, was erected as an Alberta Golden Jubilee project.

TAIL CREEK

Once a settlement for large buffalo hunts in the 1870's, all that remains of Tail Creek today is a scattering of some 40 unmarked graves. The settlement was located about four miles southeast of Nevis.

The settlement began as a cluster of huts set up by Cree and half-breed buffalo hunters each fall, when hunting was its best. In its heyday, Tail Creek had a population of several hundred men who gathered into large hunting parties before venturing into the prairies of the Blackfeet. The crude log cabins were nestled on the slopes of a shallow valley at the junction of Tail Creek and the Red Deer River.

To protect the Indians and Metis from the whiskey traders of the south, the N.W.M.P. stationed a garrison of four men at Tail Creek in 1875.

By the early 1880's the buffalo had vanished from the area and the settlement was gradually abandoned. Prairie fires helped to speed its demise and to erase any sign of the once thriving community.

THE FUR TRADE

The sleigh, or cariolle, was an important means of transportation for early fur traders. This party is leaving Jasper House for Fort Edmonton in 1872.

CHAPTER 2

FIRST WHITE MAN

In 1754, an employee of the Hudson's Bay Company named Anthony Henday left Fort York on the Hudson Bay to travel the unknown western plains in an effort to induce the Indians to bring their furs for trade.

Henday crossed the central part of the province to become the first white man to visit what is now Alberta. He met the Blackfeet but could not persuade them to make the long journey to the east. He wintered in the province and returned to Fort York in 1755.

A cairn erected by the Federal Government north of Red Deer and a Provincial rustic highway sign on Antler Hill, near Innisfail, pay tribute to this historic journey.

DAVID THOMPSON

David Thompson was one of the most famous explorers and geographers in the history of the fur trade. For some 27 years he served in the west and prepared the first accurate and scientific representation of Canada's geography.

In 1807 Thompson set out from Rocky Mountain House to discover the headwaters of the Columbia River and during the next three years built trading posts for the North West Company in southern British Columbia, Idaho and Washington.

When the hostility of the Peigan Indians prevented him from taking the usual route to the west coast in the winter of 1810-11, Thompson discovered the Athabasca Pass, and transported his goods to the Big Bend of the Columbia. This pass later became an important route for carrying fur and freight over the mountains.

A cairn, erected in Jasper National Park by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board, reads: "In midwinter, 1810 - 11, David Thompson, of the North West Company, with ten companions discovered and travelled through this pass to the Columbia. It immediately became the regular route across the mountains and so continued until the advent of railway communications. To David Thompson, Canada owes the first accurately prepared map of the Great West embodying the results of his surveys and explorations from 1789 to 1812."

A Provincial rustic sign honoring Thompson is located near Rocky Mountain House.

FORT ASSINIBOINE

A cairn has been erected on a gravelly bench about 30 feet above the level of the Athabasca River near the village of Fort Assiniboine to mark the fort site and to pay tribute to a link in the transcontinental water route of the past century.

Fort Assiniboine was the northern point on the long portage from Fort Edmonton to the Athabasca River en route to Fort Vancouver via Athabasca Pass and Boat Encampment. Apparently the post was in operation all year round, at least in the year 1827. In that year, David Douglas states that he reached Fort Assiniboine from the west in May and found the post in charge of J. E. Harriott. In 1859, Dr. Hector stated the place consisted of a few ruinous huts on the left bank of the river.

The land on which the fort site is located was deeded to the University of Alberta by the late Dr. State but has since been destroyed in the expansion of business in the area.

BUCKINGHAM HOUSE

A cairn erected by the Alberta Government marks this post. It is located south of Elk Point on the north side of the North Saskatchewan River.

It states: "Constructed by William Tomison of the Hudson's Bay Company in 1792 to compete with N.W.Co.'s Fort George for Indian trade. Although in competition, the forts used a common well and always stood ready to defend each other. This post was temporarily abandoned in 1799 and finally closed in 1802."

FORT CHIPEWYAN

A cairn erected at Fort Chipewyan makes a threefold tribute to Alexander Mackenzie, Sir John Franklin and to the fort itself.

The first fort on Lake Athabasca was built by Roderick Mackenzie of the North West Company in 1789. This first Fort Chipewyan was constructed about eight miles from the mouth of Athabasca River, on a rocky point projecting into the lake. About 1799 it was abandoned and a new fort was erected by the North West Company on a rocky point on the north shore of the lake—its present site.

After coalition in 1821, the Hudson's Bay Company operated this fort to the present date. In the same area the X.Y. Company constructed a fort in 1800 about one mile north of the present Roman Catholic Mission. The Hudson's Bay Company built Nottingham House in 1802 and Fort Wedderburne in 1815.

Some buildings from the last log fort at the site of modern Fort Chipewyan still are standing.

FORT DE L'ISLE

This fort was established by Alexander Mackenzie of the XY Company in 1799, on an island about 20 miles above Fort George. Immediately afterwards the Hudson's Bay and North West Companies built rival posts which operated for a short time.

A cairn erected at the site by the Government of Alberta bears this inscription:

"Alexander Mackenzie of the newly-formed XY Co. established a trading post here in autumn of 1799. The Hudson's Bay and North West Companies immediately abandoned their posts downstream and established forts on the island to squeeze their competitor out of business. The XY Co. was finally absorbed by the NW Co. in 1804."

FORT DUNVEGAN

The important place that Fort Dunvegan held in the development of fur trading and agriculture was honored by a cairn unveiled in 1951.

First man to visit the approximate site of Fort Dunvegan was Alexander Mackenzie during the spring of 1793.

In 1805, the fort was built by Archibald Norman McLeod, a senior partner in the North West Company. The name was chosen in honour of his ancestral home on the Isle of Skye, Scotland.

Temporary quarters were contructed in 1805, and log buildings, bastions, pallisades and block houses were completed by the spring of 1806. For about 50 years from the time it opened its doors, Fort Dunvegan was the centre of fur trading on the Peace River. The Hudson's Bay

Fort Chipewyan was an important depot for the northern trade. It was the headquarters for the fur trade district and was the jumping off place for the Mackenzie River posts.

Company took over the fort in 1821, and operated it until its final abandonment in 1918. The fort had been temporarily abandoned in 1824 because of trouble with the Beaver Indians, following an argument in which one Indian was killed and a white trader wounded. Four years later, when it was scheduled for reopening, the fort had fallen to ruin and had to be rebuilt. The last buildings in the fort were constructed about 1879. The factor's house is today the only building remaining.

In addition to its importance as a fur trading centre, Fort Dunvegan has historical interest in the field of agriculture. In the summer of 1806 their first garden was planted and by 1809 strawberries, raspberries, cherries and vegetables were being produced.

Inscription on the cairn reads: "Fort Dunvegan, Established 1805 for the North West Company by Archibald Norman McLeod. Fort Dunvegan was named after the ancestral castle of the McLeods on the Island of Skye. For many years it was a centre of the fur trade, a link in the chain of communication westward into British Columbia and the scene of the missionary enterprises and agricultural experiment. It was operated by the Hudson's Bay Company from 1821 to 1918."

FORTS EDMONTON AND AUGUSTUS

A cairn erected near Lamoureux by the national Historic Sites and Monuments Board pays tribute to the first two in a series of Forts Augustus and Edmonton. Site of the final Fort Edmonton on the grounds of the Alberta Legislative Building is marked with a cairn erected by the Alberta Government.

The first two forts were established by the Hudson's Bay and North West Companies in 1795 near the Sturgeon River, close to the present Fort Saskatchewan. The H.B.Co. post was called Fort Edmonton, while the N.W.Co. post was Fort Augustus or Fort des Prairies.

These forts were abandoned in 1802 and new ones were built within the present city limits. They were also called Edmonton and Augustus, and remained in use until abandoned in 1810.

At that time new forts were built several miles downstream on the North Saskatchewan River, near the present village of Pakan. These third forts were variously known as Fort Edmonton, Fort White Earth, Lower Terre Blanche Fort and White Earth House. In addition, each company built an outpost several miles upstream from Edmonton, immediately south of Lake Wabamun. These posts were called Little White Earth House and Upper Terre Blanche Fort.

The traders son found they had chosen their new forts unwisely. All were abandoned in April, 1813, when two new forts were built at the present site of Edmonton's power house. In 1821 the two companies amalgamated under the name of the Hudson's Bay Company. The North West Company post was used for a short time as living quarters but was soon abandoned. Meanwhile, the traders began having trouble at the main fort. In 1825 it was flooded badly but was re-occupied when the water subsided. Another flood in 1830 was even worse, so the fort was abandoned.

In the summer of 1830 the traders moved to higher ground and started work on the final Fort Edmonton. This work was not completed until 1832. When the old fort was abandoned, the employees tried to abandon the name also and dubbed the new post Fort Sanspariel. However, the original name was soon restored.

The final fort lasted until well into the settlement era but was finally dismantled in 1915.

FORT FORK

A cairn paying tribute to Alexander Mackenzie and to Fort Fork is located on the old fort site about eight miles south-west of Peace River town. It lies on a point between the Smoky and the Peace. Remains of the fort include two chimney bottoms and three cellars, one of which is very large.

Mackenzie stayed at Fort Fork during the winter of 1792-93, while searching for the elusive Western Sea. The famous explorer already had completed his northern search, which led him up the great river he named River Disappointment, but which was later changed to the Mackenzie River, in honor of its discoverer.

Mackenzie left Fort Fork on May 9, 1793, following the Peace into the Rocky Mountains and eventually reaching the Pacific Ocean via the Bella Coola River. On July 21, he and his nine companions arrived at Echo Cove—the first party to reach the Pacific Ocean by land. The return trip was made along the same route, with the group arriving in Fort Fork September 24, 1793.

The cairn, which was unveiled on July 1, 1929, reads: "Cairn and tablet on Lot 19, Shaftesbury Settlement to mark the site of Fort Fork, where Sir Alexander Mackenzie wintered in 1792-93 and from where he set out on the 9th May, 1793, on his quest for the Western Sea."

FORT GEORGE

Fort George was built in 1792 by Angus Shaw of the North West Company on the north bank of the Saskatchewan River about four and a half miles above the mouth of Moose Creek.

A cairn erected by the Alberta Government states:

"Constructed by Angus Shaw of the North West Company in 1792 for trade with the Plains tribes. Fur-bearing animals were soon destroyed in the area and in 1799 the post was temporarily abandoned in favour of Fort de l'Isle, 20 miles upstream. Fort George was completely abandoned in spring of 1802."

HENRY HOUSE

An early post site within the boundary of Jasper National Park was Henry House which was constructed in 1811 by William Henry.

The cairn reads: "Cairn and tablet adjacent to the Jasper-Maligne Canyon road, about 400 yards north of the east end of the Athabasca bridge, to mark the site of Henry House, founded in 1811 by the North West Company. The post later became an important point in the transportation system of that Company and later of the Hudson's Bay Company."

JASPER HOUSE

A cairn erected in Jasper Park adjacent to the Jasper Highway near

The final location for Fort Edmonton was on the flat below the present Legislative Building. This view, from the vicinity of the present 105th Street Bridge, was taken by Charles Horetsky in 1872.

the mouth of Rocky River pays tribute to a post built by the North West Company about 1813.

Jasper House was never an important fur trading centre but was invaluable as a supply depot for horses and canoes for freight travelling to and from the west coast via the Athabasca Pass.

David Thompson pioneered a route to the Columbia River through the Athabasca Pass in 1811, which opened travel via the North Saskatchewan River. About 1826 the Yellowhead Pass was discovered so that both routes were together as far as the mouth of the Miette River where it empties into the Athabasca.

As early as 1813 Jasper House was important as a connection for express. Horses and canoes were sent at least as far as the mouth of the Miette to meet the outcoming expresses and carried returning express to the same point. In later years Jasper House waned in importance until it was abandoned in 1884.

Inscription on the cairn reads: "Built by the North West Company, about 1813, at the Northern end of Brule Lake. Some time between 1827 and 1829 it was rebuilt near this site. For half a century it was a main support of the trade route across the mountains and an important point for all persons journeying through the Yellowhead and Athabasca passes."

McLEOD'S FORT

An Alberta Government cairn was placed at the site of Alexander McLeod's post in 1961. This fort was

17

located on the left bank of the Peace River at its confluence with the Smoky. The plaque states: "In the 1790's, Alexander McLeod established a trading post here for the North West Company after closing Fort Fork across the Peace River. McLeod's Fort remained in operation until after his departure in 1799 and was abandoned in favor of the old Fort Fork location."

METHYE PORTAGE

The 12-mile portage between the Clearwater River and Methye Lake was an important link for supplies being freighted to the Athabasca, Peace and Mackenzie Rivers.

The fur resources of the district attracted the Frobishers in 1775 as far west as Isle a la Cross. Here they met some Chipewyan Indians who were en route to Fort Churchill. Their success in trading prompted independent traders to send a stock of goods into the Athabasca country in 1778 under Peter Pond.

Pond left Cumberland House with four canoes and crossed the Methye Portage to the Clearwater River. When he began his voyage down the Clearwater to the Athabasca, he became the first white man to travel in a westward flowing river of northwestern America.

The cairn located on the public school grounds in Fort McMurray states in part: "Cairn and tablet to commemorate the events connected with the earliest trade route between eastward and westward flowing waters which followed the Clearwater River and the Methye Portage, discovered by Peter Pond in 1778 and used continuously for more than a century."

PAINT CREEK HOUSE

Adjoining forts were constructed by the Hudson's Bay and North West Companies shortly after 1800 on the north side of the Saskatchewan River, facing the mouth of Vermilion River. Both were abandoned in 1816. The posts were also known as Paint River House or Fort Vermilion.

A cairn erected by the Alberta Government states:
"Two forts of the rival Hudson's Bay and North West Companies were built within a single pallisade at this site shortly after 1800. Here trade was carried on with the Blackfeet and Cree tribes. The posts were also known as Fort Vermilion. They were both abandoned in May, 1816."

PEIGAN POST (or Old Bow Fort)

This fort was constructed by the Hudson's Bay Company in 1832 on the north bank of the Bow River at the mouth of the Old Fort Creek. It was also known as Bow River Fort, Old Bow Fort, and Peagan Post.

A sign erected by the Historic Sites Committee of the Government of Alberta on the Trans-Canada Highway reads: "In an attempt to lure the Peigan and Blackfeet Indians away from American traders on the Missouri River, the Hudson's Bay Co. constructed a fort four miles north of this point in 1832. It had a brief existence, for the Blood Indians, who were supposed to trade in Edmonton, were jealous and would not let their allies come to trade. The fort was under danger of attack on several occasions and was finally abandoned in January 1834. It was also known as Old Bow Fort."

Two chimneys are all that remain of Rocky Mountain House. They are located in a small park and have been restored to preserve them against the weather. The fort was located a short distance west of the present town of Rocky Mountain House.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE

About 1½ miles south-west of the present town of Rocky Mountain House are two chimneys, located in a small neat park. This is all that remains of the final Rocky Mountain House fort, constructed in 1864.

These were restored to a partial measure of their original height and are reinforced against the weather. Nearby is a cairn, erected in 1931 by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board, which pays tribute to David Thompson and the fort.

Rocky Mountain House was established in 1799 by the North West Company and was for 70 years the most westerly and southerly fort in the Blackfeet country. In 1802, David Thompson made his first attempt to cross the Rocky Mountains, and from here in 1807 he set out on the expedition which succeeded in crossing to the headwaters of the Columbia.

From this date until the discovery of the Athabasca Pass in 1810-11, the route to the trans-mountain country lay up the North Saskatchewan. During these times, Rocky Mountain House was not only a trading centre for the Blackfeet, but a depot on the trans-mountain route.

In 1799 James Bird of the Hudson's Bay Co. built Acton House a short distance from the North West Co. post. It was closed in 1807, reopened in 1819 but finally abandoned after the union of 1821 in favour of Rocky Mountain House.

From 1828 until it was temporarily abandoned in 1861, the post was opened only in winter for trade among the Blackfeet, Bloods, Peigans and Stonies. The fort was completely rebuilt in 1864 at the present historic site but was abandoned in 1875 in favour of a post at Calgary.

Inscription on the cairn reads: "Built in 1799 by the North West Company. David Thompson wintered here in 1800-01, 1801-02, 1806-07, and from here he set out in 1807 for the discovery of the Columbia River. It was for over seventy years the most westerly and the most southerly post in the Blackfeet country and remained in operation until 1875."

VICTORIA POST

A Hudson's Bay Co. post was built in 1864 beside Victoria Mission of the Methodist church near the present location of Pakan.

The post was constructed to serve the Indians and half-breeds who settled near the mission, and also to oppose free traders operating in the area. First clerk in charge was George Flett.

By 1873 the post also had a grist mill to serve the settlers. The establishment was abandoned in 1883 but re-opened in 1888 because of the activity of opposition traders in the area. It was finally closed in the 1897-98 season.

The site of the post has been set aside as a Provincial Historical Site by the Alberta Government and one of the original H.B.Co. buildings has been preserved. A Provincial cairn also marks the site.

FORT WHITE EARTH

Adjoining forts were operated by the Hudson's Bay and the North West Companies at the mouth of White Earth River, near the present village of Pakan.

The site has been marked with a cairn by the Alberta Government.

Its inscription reads:

"In 1810, the Hudson's Bay and North West Companies abandoned Fort Edmonton, upstream, and established trading posts within a single pallisade at this point. However, the site proved inconvenient, and was abandoned in April 1813. The forts here were also called Lower Terre Blanche or Fort Edmonton."

UNMARKED TRADING POSTS

In addition to the sites of marked forts, there were a number of early trading posts in Alberta which are not marked or preserved. In some cases the cellars or stones of the fireplaces can still be seen.

Unmarked posts constructed before 1870 include:

Beren's House. Built in 1815 by Thomas Thomas of H.B.Co. on Athabasca River at the mouth of Calumet Creek.

Boggy Hall. Built by N.W.Co. shortly after 1800 on the west bank of North Saskatchewan River above

Blue Rapids. Abandoned in autumn of 1808.

Dog Rump Creek House. Adjoining posts of H.B.Co. and N.W.Co. built in 1817 on North Saskatchewan at the mouth of Atimoswe Creek. Abandoned in 1822.

Encampment Island. Built by N.W.Co. in about 1804 on an island about 24 miles below present Peace River town.

Fort Vermilion area. Several posts were located on Peace River in this area. In 1788, Boyer of N.W.Co. built "Old Establishment" near the mouth of Boyer River.

In 1792, "New Establishment" was built about 40 miles upstream from the present town. It was also called "Fort du Tremble," "Old Aspin Fort" and "Finlay's Post". It was abandoned in about 1799.

"Upper Fort Vermilion" or "Lafleur's Post" was built in about 1799, located 17 miles below the mouth of Keg River.

"Fort Vermilion", located 24 miles below Keg River, was built in 1800 and remained in operation until about 1828.

The first H.B.Co. fort in the area was "Mansfield Post," built near the present town in 1802 and abandoned in 1805.

"Fort Liard" was built by N.W.Co. on the site of the present town before 1804 and was likely closed in 1805-06.

In about 1828, "Fort Vermilion" was built by the H.B.Co at the site
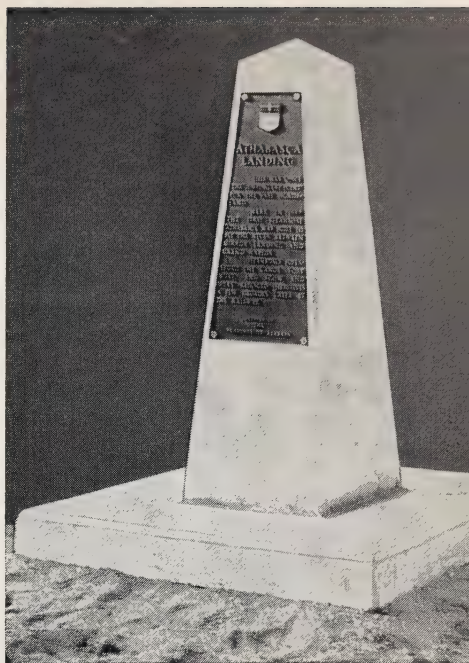
Several sites of fur forts have been marked with concrete cairns by the Alberta Government. This standard type has been used throughout the province in the historic sites program.

of the present town and remained in use until modern times.

Grand Marias. Built by N.W.Co. in 1798 on Peace River, 50 miles above Peace Point. Abandoned by 1804.

Horse Shoe House. Built by N.W.Co. in 1803 on Peace River about 18 miles above mouth of Notekiwin River. The X.Y.Co. likely had a post nearby. Both were abandoned before 1806.

House at the Forks. In 1799, David Thompson visited a N.W.Co. post at the confluence of the Athabasca and

Clearwater Rivers. Fort McMurray was built by the H.B.Co. on the same site in 1870.

Lac la Biche area. David Thompson of N.W.Co. built "Red Deer Lake House" in 1798 at the east end of Lac la Biche. In 1799, Peter Fidler of H.B.Co. built "Greenwich House" nearby. The latter post was abandoned shortly after 1801 but the other remained for several years.

Lake Claire Post. Built by N.W.Co. on west side of Lake Claire in about 1799 and likely abandoned in 1800. Also called "Porter's Post".

Lesser Slave Lake area. A N.W.Co. fort, sometimes called "Blondin's Post," was built at the west end of the lake in 1801. In 1802, a N.W.Co. fort called "Slave Lake House" was in operation at the east end of the lake. In 1815, Francois Decoigne of

H.B.Co. built "Fort Waterloo" near the present Grouard.

Little Red River. Built by John Stuart of N.W.Co. in 1800 on Peace River near the mouth of Mikkwa River. Closed before 1804 and rebuilt years later by the H.B.Co.

Little White Earth Post. Adjoining posts were built by H.B.Co. and N.W.Co. in Nov. 1810 on the North Saskatchewan at the mouth of Wabamun Creek. Also called Upper Terre Blanche Fort. Abandoned in April, 1813.

Fort McKay. Built on Athabasca River at the mouth of McKay River in about 1870 by H.B.Co. Also called "Old Red River House."

McLeod's Fort. In 1812, when David Thompson reached the mouth

Colin Fraser, a free trader at Fort Chipewyan in the late 1890's, inspects his warehouse of furs. The black fox, beaver, muskrat and other skins were valued at $35,000.

of McLeod River on the Athabasca River, he recorded seeing "the old fort of Mr. McLeod".

Moose Lake House. Built by Angus Shaw of N.W.Co. in 1789 on the west side of the lake. Also called "Fort Lac d'Orignal" or "Shaw's House."

Nelson House. Adjoining posts were built by N.W.Co. and H.B. Co. in 1799 on North Saskatchewan downstream from Wabamun Creek. N.W.Co. post was called "White Mud House," or "Terre Blanche Fort." Both were likely abandoned in 1801.

North Branch House. Built by H.B.Co. in 1807 on North Saskatchewan at the mouth of Brazeau River. Likely closed in 1808.

North West House. Built in 1799 by N.W.Co. on North Saskatchewan, eight hours by boat downstream from Rocky Mountain House.

Pigeon Lake Post. Built by H.B.Co. in about 1868 at north-west corner of the lake, on Edmonton-Rocky Mountain House trail. Abandoned about 1874.

Pond's House. Built by Peter Pond as a free trader in 1778 on the west bank of Athabasca River about 40 miles from its mouth. This was the first trading post in Alberta. It was taken over by N.W.Co. and abandoned shortly after 1789. It was also called "Old Establishment" and "Athabasca House".

Quagmire Hall. Built by N.W.Co. on North Saskatchewan below Rocky Rapids and was abandoned before 1811. Also called "Muskake Fort".

St. Mary's House. There were three H.B.Co. posts on Peace River by this name. The first was established in 1818 near the confluence of the Smoky and Peace Rivers. It was abandoned in the following year in favour of a post across the river on the north side where the remains of the fireplaces can still be seen. This was an inconvenient location so the fort was dismantled in 1820 and moved downstream, opposite the present town of Peace River. It was abandoned in 1821.

**Salt River House.** Built by H.B.Co. on the Slave River at the present Fitzgerald.

Slave River Post. Built by Francois Decoigne of N.W.Co. in 1799 on the Athabasca River at the mouth of Slave River.

Summerberry River Post. Built by H.B.Co. in 1801 on the Pembina River on Edmonton-Lesser Slave Lake trail. Abandoned but re-established by H.B.Co. and N.W.Co. in 1817. Finally closed in about 1822. Also called "Pembina Post".

White Hall. Built by H.B.Co. in 1815 near the abandoned Nelson House. Closed in 1817.

White Mud Post. Built by James Bird, Jr., of H.B.Co., in 1820 on North Saskatchewan at the mouth of "White Mud River". This may have been near Wabamun Creek. Abandoned in 1821.

THE MISSIONARIES
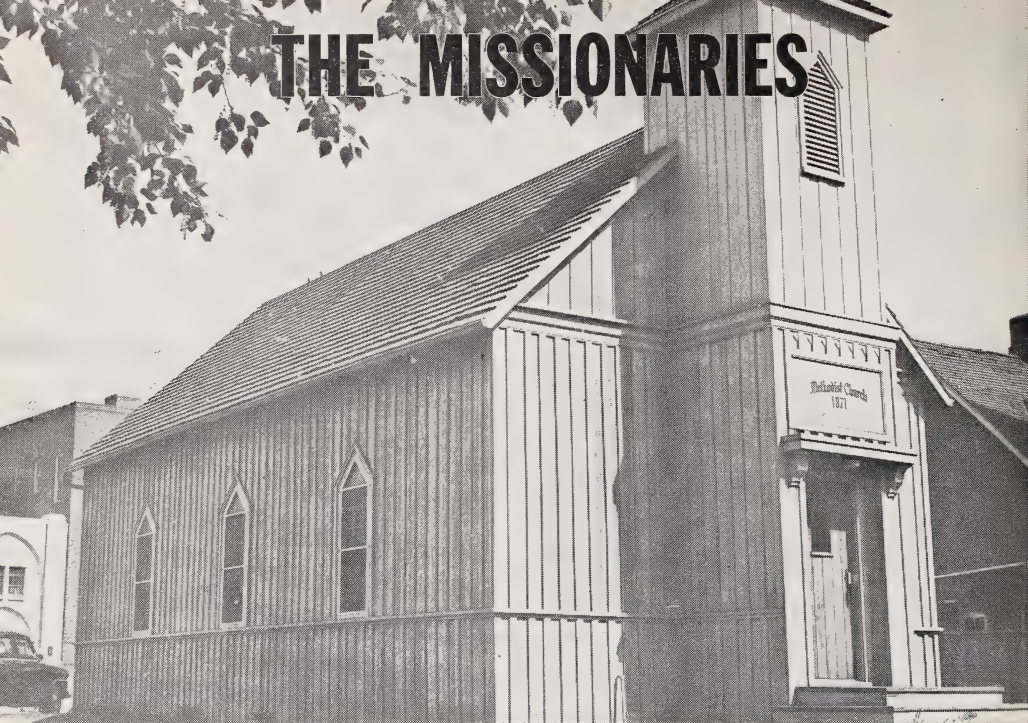
One of the first buildings constructed outside the pallisades of Fort Edmonton was this old Methodist church. Rev. George McDougall constructed it in 1871 and the building is now maintained by the United Church as a museum.

CHAPTER 3

REV. R. T. RUNDLE

The first resident missionary in what is now the Province of Alberta was Rev. Robert T. Rundle, who was sent out by the Methodist Church in 1840. Working out of Fort Edmonton, he travelled the wilderness trails, visiting Indians and traders at Bow River, Lesser Slave Lake, Beaver Lake and Rocky Mountain House.

He was particularly successful in his work with the Stony Indians and laid the groundwork for a mission at Pigeon Lake. He returned to England in 1848 after his health failed, but his work was carried on by others who followed him.

His mission site at Pigeon Lake is being preserved by the Rundle Memorial Foundation and the cellar excavations are still partly visible. The United Church of Canada also unveiled a memorial in May 1941 on the church grounds in Banff. An imposing landmark in Banff National Park, Mount Rundle is also named in his honour.

LAC STE. ANNE MISSION

The first Roman Catholic mission in Alberta was established at Lac St. Anne in 1843 by Father J. B. Thibault, O.M.I. Located to serve Metis and Indians in the area, it be-

came the scene of annual pilgrimages for natives from all parts of Alberta.

The site is marked by a cairn which was erected July 26, 1959. The plaque reads in part: "Site of the first Catholic Mission in Alberta organized by Father J. B. Thibault in 1843 and served by the Oblate Missionaries since 1852."

REV. H. B. STEINHAUER

One of the outstanding missionaries in Alberta was an Ojibway Indian named Henry Bird Steinhauer. Educated in Upper Canada he came west as a Methodist missionary in 1840. In 1885 he came to what is now Alberta and established a mission among the Woods Crees at Whitefish Lake.

A great scholar, he was proficient in English, Cree, Ojibway, Hebrew and Greek. He helped to translate the Bible and hymns into Cree and possessed one of the best theological libraries in the west.

A cairn was erected beside the Whitefish Lake mission by the Alberta Government in 1961 in honour of this missionary.

FATHER LACOMBE

Father Albert Lacombe was an Oblate missionary who received international attention for his work. He made his first trip to Alberta in 1852, travelling by York boat to Fort Edmonton.

After serving at Lac Ste. Anne, he established the colony of St. Albert in 1861. This community was for the Metis living in the Fort Edmonton area and was the first

organized attempt to introduce agriculture to settlers in the district.

He served at several points in the west and in the scholarly field he wrote a Cree-French dictionary and an illustrated "Catholic Ladder" for religious instruction.

He retired in 1904 but remained active enough to establish Lacombe Home at Midnapore in 1909, where he died in 1916. He is honored by a statue at St. Albert in front of his original church which is preserved as a church museum. A monument erected by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board at Wetaskiwin pays joint tribute to him and Rev. John McDougall as 'The Peacemakers," while a local cairn was

One of the most beloved figures in the west was Father Albert Lacombe. This statue of him was erected in front of his old church at St. Albert.

constructed on the grounds of Lacombe Home in 1960.

McDOUGALL CHURCH

On the corner of 101st Street and Macdonald Drive in Edmonton stands the first Protestant church built in that city. It is located beside the new brick McDougall Church and is identified by a large plaque on the lawn.

The church was built in 1873 after the Rev. George McDougall was posted to the Edmonton district. When the old log church was built it was known as Wesleyan Church and later as McDougall United Church.

Today it stands as a museum, containing photographs and relics of the bygone days.

MORLEY CHURCH

In 1873 Rev. John McDougall selected a site on the Bow River for a mission among the Stonies and Blackfeet. There he established Morleyville which soon included the mission, his brother's trading post, and Bow River Post of the Hudson's Bay Co.

A school was added and in 1875 a frame church was built. This building is preserved by the United Church and is used as a summer museum. Over the years, the settlement became the centre of activities for the Stony Indians and their reserve was chosen west of the mission.

Near the church is a cairn with three plaques which pay tribute to the McDougall family, the Stony Indians, and the pioneers of southern Alberta. Rev. McDougall is also commemorated in a joint monument at Wetaskiwin to Father Lacombe and him as "The Peacemakers". A sign on the Trans - Canada Highway also mentions this site.

OUR LADY OF PEACE MISSION

A local cairn was erected on the farm of O. S. Nickle, 21 miles south west of Calgary, on the site of the mission of Our Lady of Peace, founded in 1873 by Father Scollen.

This was the first Roman Catholic church south of the Red Deer and it was from this site that missionaries journeyed through southern Alberta. Stones from the original mission were used in the construction of the cairn.

Inscription on the cairn is: "On the site of the first church in southern Alberta this tablet commemorates the missionary labor of Father Constantine Scollen, O.M.I., born in Ireland in 1841, who established the mission of Our Lady of Peace, in the country of the Blackfoot in 1873, and of Father Leon Doucet, O.M.I., born in France in 1847, who joined Father Scollen at this spot in 1875 and spent a lifetime as 'Missionaries-aux-pieds noir'."

OLD HERMITAGE

The first headquarters of the Anglican Church in the Edmonton district is honored by cairns erected by the Anglicans and the City of Edmonton at its original site on the present Old Hermitage Farm.

In 1875, an appeal was made by Anglicans at Fort Edmonton for a

minister of their faith. This appeal was answered by Canon William Newton, who arrived at the fort on Sept. 28th of the same year.

Following his arrival, the missionary lived in an unfinished log building owned by the Chief Factor, and here held services during the winter. But the lack of accommodation prompted Canon Newton to construct his own church, and because all suitable locations near the fort had been taken, he chose a spot on the north bank of the river, seven miles downstream from the settlement.

The first Anglican Church was established in Edmonton by Canon Newton several years later, but following his retirement in 1891 he continued his missionary work at "The Hermitage."

REV. GEORGE McDOUGALL

A Provincial cairn four miles north of Calgary marks the place where Rev. George McDougall died on the prairies in 1876. A Methodist missionary who had been in the west since 1860, he had devoted his life to the Indians. At the time of his death he had been out buffalo hunting and is believed to have suffered a heart attack.

Born in 1821, Rev. McDougall attended Victoria College in Toronto and established a mission at Garden River. In 1860 he moved to Norway House, Man. In 1863 he went up the Saskatchewan River to Fort Edmonton and selected a site for a new mission. It was located near the present Pakan, Alta., and was called Victoria Mission. In 1871 he took charge of the work at Fort Edmon-

ton and two years later completed the church which is now preserved as a museum.

During these years he worked tirelessly among the Cree and Stony Indians. Finding the latter tribe particularly receptive to Christianity, he went with his son to locate a mission site on the Bow River. This became the Morleyville settlement and it was from there that he went on his last hunting trip in January 1876.

ST. CHARLES MISSION

The first permanent mission was formed in Fort Dunvegan in 1866 by the Roman Catholic Church. Father Christophe Tissier, one of the first resident fathers who remained at the mission for 13 years, named it St. Charles. In 1883 he was relieved by Father Grouard, Father Husson and Brother Renault.

It was Father Grouard who constructed the present church in 1884 completing it in the following year.

St. Charles Mission was built at Dunvegan by Father Emile Grouard in 1884. It was restored recently by the Alberta Government and is now maintained as a museum.
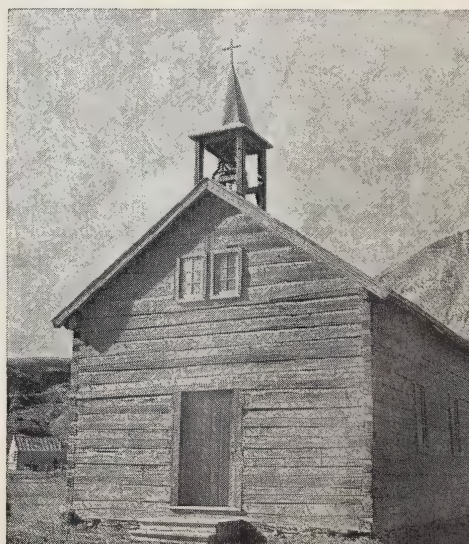
With his own hands the priest cut, hewed and sawed the logs for the mission. Inside the church Father Grouard painted ornate decorations which can still be seen today. This church has been restored by the Alberta Government and is maintained by the Oblates as a museum. A cairn with inscribed tablet has been erected on the site by the Alberta Government.

REV. J. G. BRICK

The Historic Sites and Monuments Board has erected a memorial plaque at the Peace River post office in honor of Rev. J. Gough Brick, a pioneer Anglican missionary of the Peace River district.

Born in 1836, Rev. Brick came to the Peace River area in 1886, where he built a mission at Shaftesbury Settlement. During his eight years in the area, he helped the Indians and halfbreeds to develop agricultural plots so they would not have to depend solely upon game. In 1893, he demonstrated the quality of grain grown in the district by sending a sample of Red Fife wheat to the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago, where it was placed on display.

VICTORIA MISSION

The site of the Methodist mission near Pakan, on the North Saskatchewan River, has been marked by a cairn of the United Church.

The mission was established in 1863 by Rev. John and Rev. George McDougall and Rev. Thomas Woolsey, where it served the needs of the Woods and Plains Crees. A school

was built and by 1870 at least 100 children were attending classes.

Throughout the years, the mission served the community until it was closed when the Indians moved to their reserves.

VICTORIA JUBILEE HOME

A Provincial Government cairn marks the second site of the Anglican boarding school for the Peigan Indians which was operative from 1890 to 1961. It is located near Highway No. 3 just west of Brocket. The school was at that site from 1897 to 1926.

ST. PAUL DES METIS

A Provincial Government cairn was placed on Highway No. 28, just east of St. Paul, to mark the ill-fated attempt to establish a colony for half-breeds. In 1895 a grant of 144 square miles was obtained by Father Lacombe for the colony. But the people were not prepared for the new life and after a series of problems, the Oblate fathers were obliged to close the colony in 1909.

SPRINGBANK CHURCH

A cairn was erected in 1959 to mark the site of the rural South Springbank Church, now within Calgary's western city limits.

The church was established in 1895 to serve the pioneers of the area. Over the year, different Protestant denominations co-operated to provide ministers for Sunday services. The plaque pays tribute to the Presbyterian, Baptist, Methodist and Anglican denominations. The church was removed from the site in 1951.

AMERICAN POSTS

Most famous of all American posts in Alberta was Fort Whoop-Up, south-west of the present city of Lethbridge. This view shows a number of Blood Indians near the blockhouse, while overhead flies a trading flag.

CHAPTER 4

During the period following the transfer of Rupert's Land to Canada by the Hudson's Bay Company in 1869 to the time of the arrival of the North-West Mounted Police in 1874, the western plains were under practically no authority.

It was during this time that American traders moved across the border from Montana Territory to establish posts in Blackfeet country. Forts were set up as far north as Calgary and for several years they took most of the trade which had formerly gone to Rocky Mountain House and Fort Edmonton.

There appears to be a feeling that these posts were set up solely to trade whiskey and to rob the Indians of horses, furs and other wealth. But records prove that the larger traders sold approximately the same goods as did the Hudson's Bay Company. However, their sale of whiskey and repeating rifles did cause considerable havoc among the tribes.

Such companies as I. G. Baker & Co., T. C. Power Brothers, J. B. Weatherwax, and others had varied reputations in the American West and the main law broken when they set up forts in the Canadian west was their failure to recognize Canadian sovereignty by refusing to pay customs duties and to obey the laws even though there was no one in the territory to enforce them.

FORT HAMILTON, or WHOOP-UP

There were two Fort Hamiltons constructed at the confluence of the St. Mary and Oldman Rivers. The first was built in 1869 by John J. Healy and Alfred B. Hamilton, of Sun River, M.T. This fort was not strongly constructed and was partially destroyed by fire in the spring of 1870.

The same year a new post was constructed about 300 feet north of the original Fort Hamilton. To build a strong fort Hamilton and Healy hired a former Hudson's Bay boat-builder, William S. Gladstone, to do the job. The fort had a stockade, bastions, loop holes, ramparts and wide gates.

The interior of the buildings were enclosed by large and heavy doors, while the storeroom, stables and living rooms of all the quarters were connected. In this manner, the occupants could move from room to room to protect the fort in case of attack.

This post soon became the centre of trading activities in southern Alberta. Although it was named Fort Hamilton it was soon given the name of Fort Whoop-up.

The fort was deserted in 1874 with the coming of the Mounted Police, with the exception of one trader, Dave Akers. When the police arrived, Colonel Macleod offered Hamilton and Healy $10,000 for the fort, to use as a garrison, but the partners refused, saying it had cost $25,000 to build.

When the police became established at Fort Macleod, the old fort's glory waned, and in its dying days the interior was used for a garden by

Dave Akers. A local cairn marks the site of the latter post.

STANDOFF

Second most important fort constructed by the Americans in southern Alberta was Standoff, built in 1871 at the junction of the Belly and Waterton Rivers. This is now marked by a rustic highway sign.

The fort was built by a party of men, including "Dutch Fred" Wachter, W. McLean, Mr. Juneau and John "Liver-eating" Johnson. The party started out from Fort Benton in the summer with a load of trade goods. Included in their stock was some whiskey, used in the trading activities.

The United States marshal, Charles D. Hard, noted the departure of the group and learned of the supply of alcohol. He immediately followed them, and caught up with the party at the Milk River. When he ordered the men to come back to Fort Benton they protested that they were now in Canadian territory and that the marshal had no jurisdiction over them.

They then proceeded to the Belly River, where they built their trading fort, naming it Standoff in honor of "standing off" the marshal.

SPITZEE POST

This fort was built on the Highwood River just west of the present town of High River in about 1869 by Dave Akers and "Liver-eating" Johnston. The fort was abandoned because of Indian trouble and burned to the ground.

In December, 1872, Howell Harris and Asa Sample constructed another post in the same area near the present Round T Ranch building for I. G. Baker & Co. The fort was abandoned in the fall of 1873 and was re-opened next spring.

In addition, there were a number of posts which have not been marked by cairns or highway signs.

FORT KIPP

Fort Kipp was constructed by two American traders, Joe Kipp and Charles Thomas, about 1870, near the junction of the Belly and Oldman Rivers.

It consisted of log houses forming three sides of a square and contained a cook room, living quarters, trade and store rooms. The windows were high so that one could not look through them from the ground. Broad fireplaces of mud-plastered stone furnished the necessary heat.

SLIDE-OUT

This fort consisted of little more than a group of trading shacks which were built on the Belly River between Fort Kipp and Standoff in 1873.

At first unnamed, the post was operated by a trader named Mose Solomon, who had an assistant named Miller. The assistant was hauling supplies to the fort in that year when he was killed by Blood Indians.

When an Indian boy reported the killing to the men at the post, they buried the body and decided that, because of the incident, the Bloods would no longer trade at this post. A Dutchman at the fort suggested they had better "slide-out," and thus gave the name to the post.

ELBOW RIVER POST

H. A. "Fred" Kanouse constructed a fort on the Elbow River, three or four miles upstream from the Bow in 1871. This site is within the present limits of Calgary.

Constructed for Hamilton and Healy as an outpost of Fort Whoop-Up, the fort was twenty by forty feet

Typical of the early southern Alberta posts was Fort Kipp, as sketched by Dr. Neavitt in 1875. It consisted of three buildings, with a pallisade and gate making up the fourth side of a square.

in size with a pallisaded yard adjoining it to the north. There were four rooms—a kitchen-dwelling room, store room for furs, the store where trade goods were kept, and an Indian room. Admittance from the Indian room to the store was made through a trapdoor, allowing the Indians to enter only one at a time.

Soon after the fort was opened, a band of Bloods under White Eagle came to trade. In an argument that followed, a trader and an Indian were shot. This was followed by a three-day siege on the post, which escaped being destroyed when help came from a post on the Highwood River.

A short time later, D. W. Davis, later the Member of Parliament for Alberta, took charge of the post and operated it until shortly before the arrival of the Mounted Police. A visitor in 1873 described Davis as "a very kindly hospitable man."

CONRAD'S POST

Conrad's Post was constructed in 1871 by I. G. Baker & Company at the confluence of the Belly and Oldman Rivers, three miles from Fort Kipp. It was named in honor of the manager of the company at that time. This post was also known as Robbers' Roost and Slough Bottom.

Soon after it was built, the fort was attacked by a band of Blood Indians, who were pacified before any damage was done. A second attack in the spring of 1873 was more successful and the Indians burned the fort to the ground. The graves of three white men can be seen a few yards away from the remains of the old post.

CONRAD'S OUTPOST

A one-roomed trading post was operated by Charles Conrad during the 1870's at the mouth of the Little Bow on the Oldman River. Howell Harris described it as " . . . a small one-room shack . . . with a young man in charge." It was attacked by Peigans during its first summer of operation but escaped destruction after the Indians looted the post.

BERRY'S POST

In 1872, a trader named Dick Berry started to construct a post on the Elbow River near Kanouse's post, but was driven off by Indians before the first timbers were laid.

Berry then moved westward and constructed a post about twelve miles upriver from Kanouse. Berry was later killed in ambush by a Blood Indian named Old Woman's Child.

BOND'S FORT

A trading post was in operation in Pine Coulee, south-west of the present Nanton when the Mounted Police arrived in 1874.

A detachment of Police was sent out under Supt. Crozier in February, 1875, and confiscated a wagon load of buffalo robes. Those employed at the post included William Bond and Harry "Kamoose" Taylor.

Sgt. Antrobus stated: "The fort is about three miles from where we came into the gully, and is built in the mouth of a beautiful canyon. Our fort (Macleod) . . . cannot compare with the one, ours being built of cottonwood, this of fine large pine and the roof as close as if made of boards."

A Blackfeet Indian gives evidence to a Mounted Policeman at the trial of a whiskey trader at a post on the Highwood River in 1875. At left is a priest, likely Father Scollen, while beside the Indian is his interpreter. On the shelves are the goods and revolvers offered for sale.

BERRY AND SHEARS FORT

In February, 1875, the Mounted Police received word of illicit traders operating in the Highwood country. Capt. Crozier led a detachment north in midwinter and made a number of arrests. Among them was Edward L. Smith from Berry and Shears Fort at the confluence of the Bow and Highwood Rivers. "Having heard we were after them," reported Sgt. Antrobus, "the men had cleared out and the hay and fort had been burned by the Indians."

NEIL CAMPBELL'S FORT

The Mounted Police discovered an illicit post on "Sheep Creek bottom" in February, 1875. While there they met Father Scollen as well as a party of sixty Indians who were coming to trade for whiskey. It was there that Old Sun, a head chief of the Blackfeet, first met the Mounted Police.

Campbell continued to operate a legitimate post after the arrival of the police but was drowned in the Saskatchewan River in 1876 while on a trading trip to Fort Saskatchewan.

KOOTENAI POST

In about 1873, H. A. "Fred" Kanouse established a post about two miles below the site later chosen for Fort Macleod. During the spring of 1874 a fight occurred with the Kootenai Indians and the traders finally defeated them. When the men at Fort Whoop-Up heard about the battle they went to help, but it was all over. However, while one of the men named "Jack" was describing the affair, he accidentally fired his gun into a keg of powder. The explosion partially destroyed the building but none of the men were injured.

This may also have been the site of the post called "Fort Warren," operated by Kanouse.

LEE'S POST

According to an early settler, a post was operated 15 miles southwest of Cardston by W. H. Lee in about 1872. At the time when V. Shaw came to the area in 1885 he said: "The old Lee cabins were still standing. They were in ruins and, of course, unoccupied. Lee went into the Pincher Creek district later." Lee's Creek is named after this man. He was also said to have had a later post on the Oldman River, on the south side near the mouth of Pincher Creek.

According to his obituary in 1896, Lee had been a prospector who came to Canada in 1872 and remained for a short time at Fort Whoop-Up. He later became a respected pioneer of the Crowsnest Pass.

FARWELL'S POST

Vern Shaw, who settled in the Cardston district in 1885, recorded seeing a post which had been operated by Abe Farwell. "It was located on the St. Mary River and was a well known stopping place between Benton and Fort Whoop-Up. It was on the old Whiskey Gap trail and had been abandoned before I came in. But the old log building was there with its huge stone fireplace."

LIVINGSTONE POST

Sam Livingstone, a pioneer resident of Calgary district, constructed a trading post in the early 1870's. It was located about 20 miles west of the present city of Calgary.

McPHERSON'S POST

At the time of the arrival of the North-West Mounted Police in Calgary in 1875, a trader named Addison McPherson was operating a trading post on the Sheep River, near the present town of Okotoks.

This trader sold luxuries and supplies to the men at the new police post for some time.

FRENCH'S POST

A post was established at Blackfoot Crossing in the early 1870's by Lafayette French.

The independent trader became a staunch friend of Crowfoot when he saved the chief from an attempted murder at Spitzee Post. Following the incident, French set up a post at Blackfoot Crossing, where he operated until after the arrival of the Mounted Police. The post was later sold to the Canadian Government as it lay within the new Blackfoot reserve.

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NOTE: These are some of the posts mentioned or identified in early historical writings of southern Alberta. In addition there are forts which are mentioned, but not identified. In some cases these may be duplicates of the above posts, as many were given nicknames.

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A fort dubbed WILLOW CREEK POST was supposed to have been in operation on Willow Creek, about one mile from the Oldman River. Late 19th Century writers mention seeing the ruins of a post at that point and believe it was destroyed by Indians.

There was also an unnamed post at the head of Willow Creek.

NORTH-WEST MOUNTED POLICE

The small force of North-West Mounted Police makes its way towards the Sweetgrass Hills. This sketch was made in 1874 by Henri Julien, who accompanied the police on their famous westward trek.

CHAPTER 5

TREK OF 1874

When Rupert's Land was transferred to Canada by the Hudson's Bay Company, the latter's authority ceased to exist over a large unorganized region. On the plains, just below the 49th Parallel, American fur traders had long been eying the lucrative market among the Blackfeet, Blood, Peigan, Stony and Plains Cree tribes of Canada.

Within a few years several posts had sprung up on the Canadian plains, trading with the Indians and transporting goods from the United States to Canada without payment of custom duties. These posts were dubbed "whiskey forts" by Canadians and were accused of ruining the Indians with whiskey.

The lawlessness on the plains culminated with the massacre of a band of Assiniboine Indians by white wolfers in the Cypress Hills. When news of this reached Ottawa a semimilitary organization known as the North-West Mounted Police was formed to act as the law-enforcing body in the West.

In 1874, 300 men proceeded to Dufferin, Manitoba, and set out for the unknown plains in July. By orders of Colonel French, one division was sent to the Oldman River, another to Fort Edmonton and the third to Swan River.

The westward trek was filled with hardship and beset with difficulties but the 1,000-mile march was successfully completed.

A provincial highway sign near Lethbridge and a federal cairn at Fort Macleod commemorate the event. The cairn reads:

"To commemorate the arrival in October 1874, after an arduous march of 1,000 miles, of the North-West Mounted Police, and the building on the island immediately to the north-east of the town of the first fort, named after their commanding officer, Colonel J. F. Macleod. Their coming brought law and order into a wild and lawless country and laid the foundation of those social conditions which later made possible the settlement of the country and the birth of its cities, towns, villages and peaceful farms."

FORT MACLEOD

The first Mounted Police post in Alberta was built on an island in the Oldman River late in 1874 and was named after its commanding officer, Col. James F. Macleod. It was immediately successful in stamping out the illicit whiskey trade and established good relations with the warlike Blackfeet tribes. It was due to the bond of trust between the Indians and Police that the Blackfoot Treaty was successfully signed in 1877.

Fort Macleod remained on the island until 1883 when it moved south-west a short distance from the present location of the town. A cairn was erected by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board in the Fort Macleod park paying tribute to the fort and the Police.

A museum dedicated to preserving the history of the force is located on the north side of the town. In it are many photographs and relics of the Mounted Police and pioneer era.

FORT SASKATCHEWAN

A cairn paying tribute to the first Mounted Police fort in the Edmonton district stands on the grounds of Fort Saskatchewan jail. The cairn was constructed by prisoners of the jail from stone taken from the foundation of the original Mounted Police guard-room.

The police post was constructed at Fort Saskatchewan in 1875 under Inspector W. D. Jarvis. There was considerable complaint from the citizens of Edmonton for not building the post nearer their settlement, but surveys for a railroad through the Yellowhead Pass crossed the river at that point, and it was thought to be a better site for transportation purposes.

However, the railroad was not built through the Yellowhead Pass, but the fort site remained. The first fort consisted of men's barracks, officers' quarters, guard room and stables.

FORT CALGARY

A cairn, erected in Central Park, Calgary, and a stone near the Canadian National freight sheds pay tribute to the establishment of a Mounted Police fort on the site of present-day Calgary.

On August 18, 1875, "F" Troop of 50 men under Inspector E. A. Brisebois, set out from Fort Macleod to establish a post at the junction of the Bow and Elbow Rivers. They arrived at the site and before Christmas of the same year the fort was ready for occupancy.

Inspector Brisebois wished to name the establishment after himself, but
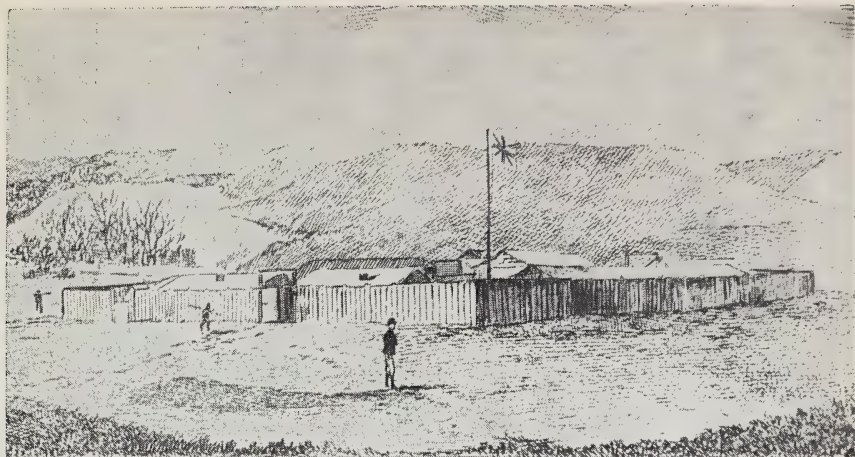
Fort Calgary was built in 1875 by the North-West Mounted Police. It was located near the confluence of the Bow and Elbow Rivers in what is now an industrial part of the city.

Colonel Macleod, then Assistant-Commissioner of the force, decided it should be called Calgary. This name was derived from "Calgarry," the name of the Macleod estate on the Isle of Mull. Translation of the Gaelic word is "clear, running water."

Inscription on the Central Park cairn reads: "To commemorate the arrival, in August, 1875, of Troop "F" of the North-West Mounted Police, under Inspector E. A. Brisebois, and the establishment of their post, Fort Calgary on the west bank of the Elbow River at its junction with the Bow River, within the limits of the city of Calgary."

The stone at the C.N.R. sheds is situated on the corner of the old N.W.M.P. reserve.

JERRY POTTS

Civilians attached to the North-West Mounted Police were of great help as guides and mediators between the early police force and restless In-

dians. None made a greater contribution to the force's successful policing of the west than did Jerry Potts. A rustic sign on Highway No. 4 between Stirling and Warner pays tribute in these words:

"When the North-West Mounted Police came west in 1874, they had little experience with frontier life. By the time they reached this area, they were tired, footsore, and almost lost. To their rescue came a short, bow-legged plainsman named Jerry Potts. He led them to Fort Whoop-Up, where the whiskey traders were put out of business and then to the Oldman River, where they built Fort Macleod. The native son of Scottish and Blood Indian parents remained as guide and interpreter for the Force until his death in 1896."

CONSTABLE GRABURN

When the North-West Mounted Police came west in 1874 a year after their formation, they faced many difficulties in making the edict of law

and order effective among the Indians and whiskey traders of the southern prairies.

They accomplished this without loss through violence of a single member until 1879. At this time Constable Marmaduke Graburn, recent recruit from Ottawa, was ambushed and shot to death. Scene of the violence was near Horse Camp, an outlying camp serving Fort Walsh in the Cypress Hills. Constable Graburn had left a fellow policeman and the camp's horse herder to recover some forgotten tool at a nearby garden. He failed to return that night. A search party organized the following day discovered the constable's body in brush-choked coulee.

For two years an Indian by name of Star Child was sought as a prime suspect in the murder. He was arrested in camp near Fort Macleod in 1881 and was charged with the crime. Insufficient evidence at trial brought acquittal.

The tragic event is commemorated by a Provincial Government cairn.

MURDER OF SGT. WILDE

A sign on Highway No. 6 some five miles south of Pincher Creek gives the following account of savagery and justice:

"In 1896, a Blood Indian named Charcoal murdered a fellow tribesman who was paying too much attention to his wife. In the weeks that followed, he was sought throughout much of this prairie and foothill country. On November 11, Sgt. W. B. Wilde of Pincher Creek detachment, North-West Mounted Police, found his trail a few miles east of here. He was overtaking him on horseback when Charcoal wheeled in his saddle and shot the Mounted Policeman. He was captured by his own people and executed on March 16, 1897."

Charcoal, a Blood Indian, was photographed at Fort Macleod guardhouse shortly before he was hung for murder. His hat covers his handcuffs.

RIEL REBELLION

A cairn and tiny graveyard are grim reminders of the savage massacre which took place at Frog Lake in 1885. Two priests and seven residents of the village were killed and two women were taken prisoner.

CHAPTER 6

MASSACRE AT FROG LAKE

A cairn erected two miles went of Frog Lake stands in memory of nine persons who were massacred by Big Bear's band of Cree Indians at the outbreak of the Riel Rebellion on April 2, 1885.

In the spring of that year the whole region of the North Saskatchewan between Frog Lake and the junction of the South Saskatchewan was seething with unrest. Big Bear, a Plains Cree, moved from the south to Frog Lake among the Woods Crees as messengers hurried with news from Louis Riel.

Previous to the fatal day there had been numerous complaints from Big Bear's band in regard to meat rations.

The whole band was ill at ease, even though their Woods Cree neighbors remained quiet.

On the morning of April 2, Big Bear's warriors struck. The priests were holding service when the Crees entered the village, and after ransacking the Hudson's Bay Company store they entered the church. As the people rushed from the building, they were cut down by the Indians, until nine men, including the priests, were dead.

Following the killings, the natives razed the buildings and proceeded to Fort Pitt where they were successful in routing Inspector Francis Dickens and his men. When the band was captured by General Strange, the chief, Big Bear, was given a jail term and

eight Indians were hanged for taking part in the actual killings.

The cairn at Frog Lake reads: "North West Rebellion. Frog Lake Massacre. Here on 2nd April, 1885, Rebel Indians under Big Bear massacred—Rev. Father Leon Adelaird Fafard, O.M.I.; Rev. Father Felix Marchand, O.M.I.; Indian Agent Thomas Quinn, Farm Instructor John Delaney, John Alexander Gowanlock, William Campbell Gilchrist, George Dill, Charles Gouin, John Williscroft. They took prisoners—Mrs. Theresa Delaney, Mrs. Theresa Gowanlock."

ALBERTA FIELD FORCE

Early in the spring of 1885 rumblings of the Riel Rebellion were felt in the District of Alberta. Traders' stores and settlers' homes at outlying points were being pillaged by restless Indians and their Metis allies.

By order of the Federal Department of Militia and Defence, Alberta defence was placed under command of Major-General Thomas Bland Strange, a retired Imperial and Canadian Militia commander who was then ranching east of Calgary.

Authority was given to form what became known as the Alberta Field Force, charged with home defence and general duty in putting down the insurrection. Regular militia, the 65th Battalion of 327 men, were despatched to Calgary from Montreal, while the Winnipeg Light Infantry with 340 men arrived from Manitoba.

Volunteers from the Calgary-Fort Macleod area, most of them cowboys familiar with horse and gun, were recruited to form the 150-man Alberta Mounted Rifles. From its ranks were drawn 40 men to reinforce Maj. S. B. Steele's Scout Cavalry of 20 North-West Mounted Police.

Detachments of infantry and Mounted Rifles were despatched to strengthen the defence of many points, including Calgary, Gleichen and other settlements.

On April 20 the main body of the Alberta Field Force, including 175 wagons and carts moved out of Calgary, bound for Edmonton. Stops were made en route to establish Fort Normandeau, Fort Ostell and Fort Ethier, and secure the safety of other points.

Arrival in Fort Edmonton May 1 was followed by outfitting for down-river travel to the strongholds of Big Bear and Poundmaker. Forts Edmonton and Saskatchewan were suitably garrisoned by the force. On May 14 the trip downstream began. Five scows previously built for the purpose were loaded with supplies for men and horses, a nine-pounder field gun, and infantry to man the gun.

At Frog Lake the force stopped to bury the massacre victims at the deserted settlement. Steele's Scouts were sent on the trail of Big Bear. Contact was made and the fighting body moved up but the Cree chief and his band of five to six hundred warriors beat a well guarded retreat to the east. Skirmishes took place at Fort Pitt, Frenchman's Butte and Loon Lake. At the latter point pursuit became impractical by the Alberta forces, and was shortly taken up by Maj.-Gen. Middleton and his forces from the east.

The Alberta Field Force returned to the Fort Pitt-Frog Lake area, where small bands of Woods Crees and Chipewyans who had been allied with Big Bear were rounded up. This action liberated captives held by the Indians, including some of the hostages taken weeks before at Frog Lake.

On July 2, Big Bear and the small remainder of his once powerful band surrendered near Fort Carlton. With the surrender came the disbandment of the Alberta Field Force.

The cairn on the grounds of the Administration Bldg., Edmonton, states: "The Alberta Field Force under Maj.-Gen. T. B. Strange, comprising detachments of the North-West Mounted Police, Alberta Mounted Rifles, Steele's Scouts, 65th Carabiners Mont-Royal, and Winnipeg Light Infantry, advanced from Calgary via Edmonton, using wagon and boat transport, and engaged the Indians under Big Bear near Frenchman's Butte and at Loon Lake. The operations of this force averted the danger of an Indian uprising in Alberta."

FORT NORMANDEAU

Fort Normandeau, constructed at Red Deer in 1885 during the North West Rebellion, has been rebuilt at its original site by the Central Alberta Old Timers' Association.

The fort was constructed by Lieutenant Normandeau and 20 men of the 65th Mount Royal Rifles, when they were left to guard the settlers and Red Deer Crossing. The building, 14 by 28 feet, was completed on June 26, 1885.

It had a four-sided sod roof, peaked towards the middle and was surrounded by a high log fence, with two towers or lookouts on the front

A rustic sign on Highway No. 2, south of Ponoka, pays tribute to the brief existence of Fort Ostell during the Riel Rebellion.

FORT OSTELL

A trading post of Hudsons Bay Company was pillaged near this point by Cree Indians on April 11, 1885 during the Riel Rebellion. On May 10, a company of the 65th Battalion, Mount Royal Rifles, under the command of Capt. John B. Ostell, arrived at the crossing to establish a fort for the protection of local settlers. The trading post was fortified, loopholed, and named Fort Ostell in honor of its commander. It was abandoned two months later after the successful suppression of the rebellion.

The original blockhouse of Fort Ethier is preserved on private property north of Wetaskiwin. This building was constructed at the Peace Hills Indian farm during the Riel Rebellion.

and one at the back. The fort was also surrounded by a ditch, eight feet deep and 10 feet wide, which was constantly filled with water.

FORT OSTELL

A highway sign erected by the Alberta Government, one mile south of Ponoka, pays tribute to Fort Ostell, which was constructed during the Riel Rebellion of 1885.

When the rebellion broke out, a war party of Crees frightened the operator of the Hudson's Bay Company post at Battle River Crossing into fleeing to Calgary. After he left the post was looted by a party led by Coyote.

Shortly afterwards, the 65th Mount Royal Rifles arrived in the west from Quebec and No. 1 Company under Capt. John B. Ostell, was ordered to take over the deserted store and transform it into a fort. Ostell and his party strengthened the walls, cut loopholes, dug a moat which was

spanned by movable bridges, and generally put the building into a state of defence. Upon its completion the post was named Fort Ostell in honor of its captain.

Although the fort was never engaged in combat, it served to pacify the rebellious Crees in the district and offered a tangible show of strength capable of protecting traffic along the Calgary-Edmonton Trail.

FORT ETHIER

The old blockhouse of Fort Ethier, which stands on the Lucas farm, about five miles north of Wetaskiwin, is one of the most interesting historic sites in Alberta today. Constructed of squared timbers during the Riel Rebellion of 1885, it is sturdily built and contains twelve loopholes for riflemen to hold off an enemy attack.

After the rebellion broke out, the 65th Mount Royal Rifles was among the armed forces sent from eastern Canada to quell the disturbances. Capt. Ethier and a company of men were sent to the headquarters of the Peace Hills Indian Agency to construct a fort to protect the Calgary-Edmonton Trail. Working throughout the spring, the men built the blockhouse and fort, naming it after their captain.

In later years, the Indian Agent, Sam B. Lucas, purchased the site as a homestead and today the family has possession of the land and the historic site.

The fort was never engaged in actual combat with the rebels, but was successful as a show of force to local bands of warlike Crees.

THE PIONEERS
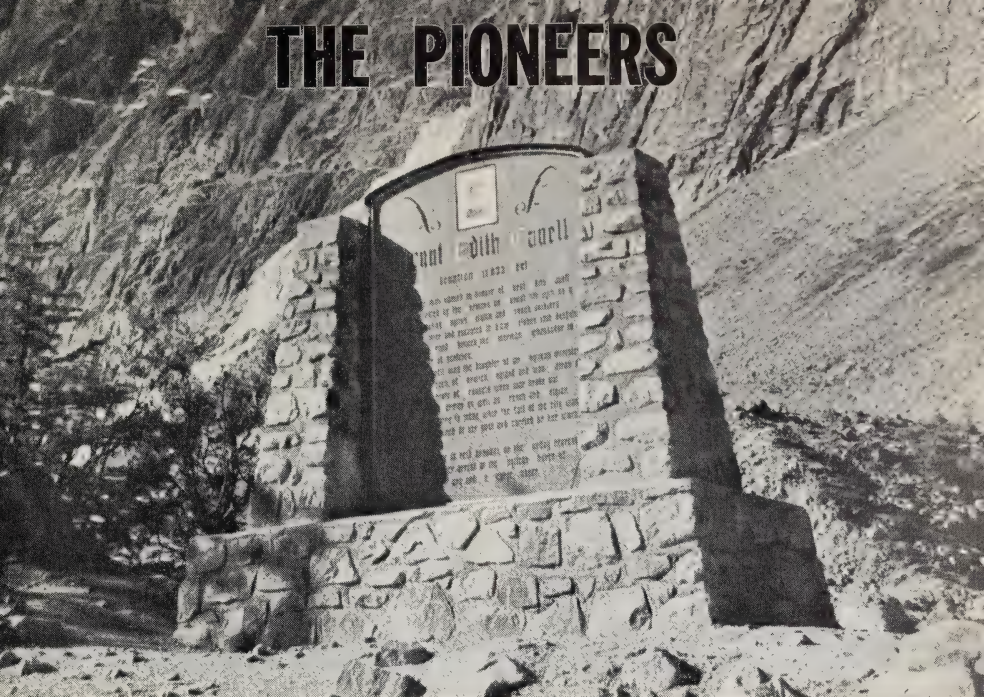
A memorial to Edith Cavell, who was executed by the Germans during World War One, is located at the base of Mount Edith Cavell, near Angel Glacier, in Jasper National Park.

CHAPTER 7

W. D. ALBRIGHT

A cairn was unveiled at Beaverlodge to W. D. Albright, pioneer agriculturist of the Peace River district. Born in 1881, Dr. Albright was a former editor of a farm newspaper who moved to the Peace River district in 1913 and formed the Beaverlodge Experimental Station. From this point he was successful in demonstrating the value of the area in the field of agriculture.

R. B. BENNETT

A stone monument was erected by the Historical Sites and Monuments Board of Canada on the grounds of Calgary Public Library, to pay tribute to an outstanding Canadian, R. B. Bennett.

Bennett came to Alberta as a lawyer and for many years represented the C.P.R. in Calgary. However, his greatest fame came in the political field, where he served as a Conservative member in the Territorial and Alberta Legislatures and the Federal Government, and became the Prime Minister of Canada from 1930 to 1935.

The cairn states: "Richard Bedford Bennett. Of old colonial stock, he practised law in Chatham, N.B., and for many years in Calgary, Alberta, having moved to the North West in 1897. Elected from Calgary to the Legislative Assembly of the North West Territories in 1898, to the Alberta Legislature in 1909, and to Parliament in 1911, he was long in the forefront of public life and was

R. B. Bennett practised law in Calgary before entering the political field. After serving in Territorial governments he entered the federal field and was Prime Minister of Canada from 1930 to 1935.

Prime Minister of Canada from 1930 to 1935. Retiring in 1939 to live in England, he was raised to the peerage in 1941 as Viscount Bennett of Mickleham, Calgary and Hopewell. His devotion to Canada and the Empire was steadfast and enduring. Born in Hopewell, N.B., 3rd July, 1870. Died at Michleham, England, 27th June, 1947."

DR. E. A. BRAITHWAITE

Dr. Braithwaite was a pioneer Mounted Policeman who had an outstanding record in the medical field. Born in Alne, Yorkshire, he studied medicine at Kings College Hospital, London, but left for Canada before graduating. He joined the North-West Mounted Police in 1884, attaining the rank of sergeant almost im-

mediately and performing medical duties in the force.

During the Riel Rebellion he was attached to Col. A. G. Irvine's column as medical attendant and cared for the wounded from Duck Lake and Batoche. In 1890 he obtained his medical degree in Winnipeg.

After leaving the Mounted Police in 1892 he began a medical practice in the Edmonton area, being named the city's coroner in 1896 and serving as Edmonton's first medical health officer. He helped to form the first western Canadian medical society and served as president of the Alberta area.

A monument, erected in 1957 in Braithwaite Park, University Avenue and 112 Street, states: "Dr. Edward Ainslie Braithwaite. Born Feb. 16, 1862 , Died Dec. 7, 1949. Pioneer physician and surgeon. First Commissioner of St. John Ambulance in Alberta. Honorary surgeon to the R.N.W.M.P. Veteran of the Riel Rebellion. First Medical Health Officer of Edmonton. Former chief hospital inspector and chief coroner for Alberta. Erected in memory of his outstanding professional service to the Indians, traders, early settlers and residents of Alberta."

"KOOTENAI" BROWN

A cairn was unveiled in 1936 at Waterton Lakes National Park in honor of John George "Kootenai" Brown, a colorful figure of the early west.

Brown was born in England in the 1840's and was reputed to have been educated at Eton and Oxford. He later went to India as an army officer and continued on to San Francisco in the early 1860's.

Several years later he and a companion came through the Kootenays into the Waterton Lake country and here Brown stayed. He first operated a trading post and later became park guardian. He died on July 18, 1917, and was buried beside the lakes he loved.

EDITH CAVELL

A cairn is located at the base of Mount Edith Cavell in Jasper National Park to pay tribute to the heroic British nurse. Stationed in Brussels at the outbreak of World War One, she refused to leave her post and treated injured French, Belgian and German soldiers. She was arrested by the Germans, charged with helping allied soldiers to escape, and was executed on Oct. 12th, 1915.

RALPH CONNOR

A cairn at Canmore pays tribute to Rev. C. W. Gordon, who became famous under the pen name of Ralph Connor.

During his years as a Presbyterian missionary, Rev. Gordon saw many events in the west which he used in such books as "Corporal Cameron" and "The Sky Pilot." He was also noted for his reminiscent books of "Glengarry School Days" and "Man From Glengarry."

His works are still popularly read by young people and are on many selected reading lists for schools.

"TWELVE-FOOT" DAVIS

A famous name in the history of the north is that of Henry Fuller "Twelve-Foot" Davis. He was not a giant as his name implies, but gained his title in a much more unique manner.
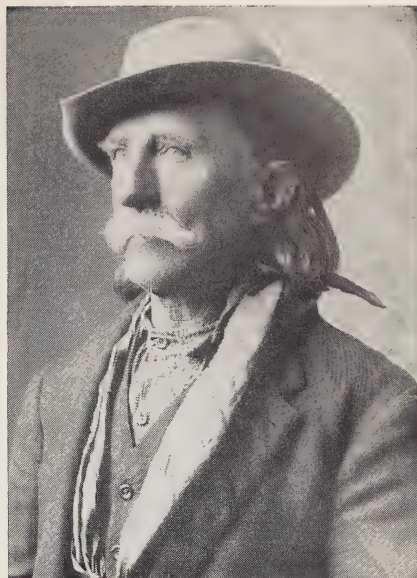
John George "Kootenai" Brown was a colorful figure in southern Alberta history. A plainsman, he settled at Waterton Lakes and became the first guardian of the National Park.

The pioneer took part in the Cariboo gold rush in British Columbia, but arrived at Barkerville late in 1862 after all the best land had been staked. When he began looking over the claims, he noticed that two—the Little Diller and Tontine—seemed to occupy more than the regulation 100 feet each. When he measured the areas he found they took up 12 feet more than their claims allowed. Davis immediately staked the 12-foot strip between the claims and took out $15,000 in gold from his claim.

In later years he drifted into the Peace River district where he became a pioneer fur trader, with posts at Dunvegan, Fort Vermilion and Lesser Slave Lake. He was respected by everyone who knew him.

When he died in 1900 he was buried at his favorite spot on top of the hill

overlooking Peace River town. His gravestone is in the form of a tree trunk, and is inscribed: "H. F. Davis, born Vermont, 1820. Died at Slave Lake, 1893 [sic]. Pathfinder, Pioneer, Miner and Trader. He was everyman's friend and never locked his cabin door."

D. B. DOWLING

A cairn was erected on Highway No. 1 near the Minnewanka road in Banff National Park, paying tribute to Donaldson Bogart Dowling, a pioneer in the field of coal, petroleum and natural gas development. Dowling was a member of the Canadian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy.

LAURENT GARNEAU

A cairn was erected in 1953 in Edmonton's Garneau district to pay tribute to the first landowner in the area. Located at Saskatchewan Drive and 111 Avenue, it states: "This part of the city (Garneau River Lot 7) was named after Laurent (Larry) Garneau, farmer, community organizer and musician who acquired the property in 1874. His original home was on the lane at the rear of 11108 90th Avenue. A maple tree planted by him still grows there."

JOHN M. GIBBON

A monument was erected in Banff by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada in 1955 to pay tribute to this noted Canadian author. John Murray Gibbon was born in Ceylon in 1875 and, coming to Canada, was one of the founders of the Canadian Authors' Association. He died in Montreal in 1952.
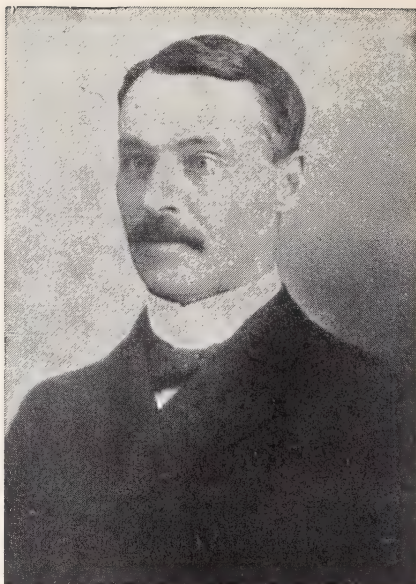
Sir F. W. G. Haultain practised law in Fort Macleod and became Premier of the North-West Territories. When the territories were divided into the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan, he became leader of the opposition for the latter province and later its chief justice.

F. W. G. HAULTAIN

A Provincial monument was erected in Fort Macleod in 1961 to honor Sir Frederick William Gordon Haultain, the first Premier of the North-West Territories.

Born in Woolwich, England, in 1857, Haultain studied law in Ontario before coming west in 1884. He established a law office in Fort Macleod and was elected to the North West Council in an 1887 by-election. When the Council became the North-West Legislative Assembly in the following year, he was returned to office to fight for full responsible government.

A change in legislation in 1891 created the position of Premier, and

Haultain was chosen. Fuller responsible government was granted by the Federal government in 1897 and a major step was taken towards provincial autonomy. Finally in 1905 the North-West Territories were divided into the Provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan. Although Territorial government had been on a non-political basis, Haultain was considered to be a Conservative, and was therefore bypassed by the federal Liberal administration in the selection of provincial premiers. Instead, he was leader of the Saskatchewan opposition until 1912. In that year he became Chief Justice of Saskatchewan and served in that capacity until his retirement in 1937. He died in Montreal on Jan 30th, 1942.

JOHN LAURIE

A cairn was erected jointly by the Provincial Government and the Indian Association of Alberta west of Morley in commemoration of John Laurie, a Calgary teacher. Dr. Laurie helped form the Indian Association in 1944 and devoted his life to the Indians. He died in 1960.

SHERIDAN LAWRENCE

In 1955, a monument was erected in Peace River town by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board in honor of Sheridan Lawrence. It states in part: "Born at South Stukely, Quebec, 8th April, 1870. Settled at Fort Vermilion, N.W.T., 1888. Farmer, miller, meat packer, merchant, friend of the Indian, road builder, freighter, magistrate, patron of education, he embodied the endurance, enterprise, versatility and vision of the pioneer. Together with his heroic wife, Julia Scott Lawrence, their seven sons and

eight daughters, he helped to push hundreds of miles northward the frontier of agriculture and community life. Died at Peace River, Alberta, 1st February, 1952."

DR. W. McINTYRE

Two plaques on a drinking fountain in Queen Elizabeth Park, Edmonton, pay tribute to a political pioneer of the Strathcona district. One plaque states in part: "Erected by his Constituents, in loving memory of the late Dr. Wilbert McIntyre, Member of Parliament, 1906-09 for Strathcona Federal Constituency."

MRS. L. C. McKINNEY

A plaque placed on the Claresholm post office by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board in 1947 pays tribute to Mrs. Louise Crummy McKinney, the first woman member of a legislature in the British Empire.

Inscription on the memorial reads: "Louise Crummy McKinney. The first woman to become a member of a legislature in the British Empire. Elected by the constituency of Claresholm to the Legislative Assembly of Alberta, 7th June, 1917. Born at Frankville, Ontario, 22nd September, 1868. Died at Claresholm, Alberta, 10th July, 1931."

C. A. MAGRATH

A prominent pioneer in the development of southern Alberta, Charles A. Magrath is remembered by a federal cairn at Lethbridge. Born in 1860, Magrath became a Dominion Land Surveyor in the west from 1878 to 1885. He then became associated with Sir A. T. Galt in developing

mining, railroads, irrigation and land interests in Alberta.

He was elected first Mayor of Lethbridge in 1891 and served in the Territorial Legislature from 1891 to 1898. During the last two years, he was a member of Haultain's cabinet. Entering the federal field, he was Member of Parliament for Medicine Hat from 1908 to 1911, after which he served on various federal commissions.

EMILY MURPHY

Two plaques were unveiled in Emily Murphy Park, Edmonton, in 1960, to honor a woman who was a noted champion of women's rights. Born in Cookstown, Ont., on March 14, 1868, she came to Edmonton where she gained considerable fame as an author, writing under the pen name of Janie Canuck. She became a magistrate and was decorated as a Lady of Grade of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem.

The Historic Sites and Monuments Board plaque states in part: "A crusader for social reform and for equal status for women, she devoted herself to these causes with unremitting energy. Originator and leader of the movement for the admission of women to membership in the Senate of Canada, she became the first woman Magistrate in the British Commonwealth, Judge of the Edmonton Juvenile Court. Her literary works include 'Seeds of the Pine' and 'The Black Candle'."

An accompanying plaque was erected by the City of Edmonton. Emily Murphy died in Edmonton, Oct. 27th, 1933.

FRANK OLIVER

A statue and tablet were erected by the Northern Alberta Old Timers' Association in 1917 to pay tribute to the Hon. Frank Oliver. These, together with the original Edmonton Bulletin building, were moved in 1961 to Edmonton's historical park at the south end of 105th Street bridge.

Frank Oliver was born near Brampton, Ont., in 1853 and after learning the printing trade he moved to Winnipeg. He visited Fort Edmonton in 1876 with a freighting outfit and returned in 1880 to establish the *Edmonton Bulletin*. This was the first newspaper in what is now Alberta. All supplies were carried overland from Winnipeg, so the first
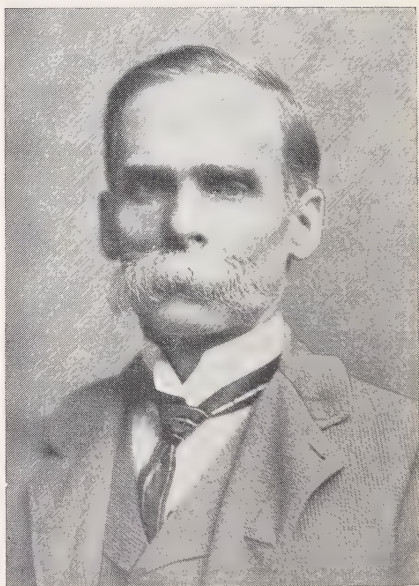
Frank Oliver was publisher of the **Edmonton Bulletin**, first newspaper in **Alberta**. Entering the political field, he served as Minister of the Interior from **1905 to 1911**.

papers were only five by six inches in size.

In 1883, Oliver was elected to the North West Council, representing Edmonton. He was defeated two years later but in 1888 he returned to the North-West Legislative Assembly which had replaced the old Council. He was a strong advocate of responsible government for the prairies and helped frame the first School Bill.

He became a Liberal Member of Parliament for Alberta in 1896 and was appointed Minister of the Interior in 1905. In 1911 the Liberals were defeated, but Oliver remained in Ottawa as a member of the Opposition. He was finally defeated in 1917. Frank Oliver died in Ottawa on March 31st, 1933.

S. STEPHANSSON

A cairn was unveiled at Markerville on Labor Day, 1950, by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board to pay tribute to the Icelandic poet, Stephansson Gudmundsson Stephansson.

Born in 1853 he came to Alberta in 1889 and gained international fame as a poet.

The cairn is located within property which has been declared a Provincial Historical Site. Stephansson died in August, 1927.

HOWARD STUTCHBURY

A memorial was erected in Stutchbury Park, 112 Ave. and 77 St., by the City of Edmonton, the Kiwanis and Alberta Safety Council. It states in part: "Howard Stutchbury, 1874-

1957. Devoted servant of the community at large. Remembered for his contribution to the church, the arts, veterans' affairs, industrial development and as a pioneer of the public accident prevention movement in Alberta. Founder of the Alberta Safety Council, 1946."

C. Y. WEAVER

Born in 1884, Charles Yardley Weaver went to the Edmonton district in 1903. After his death in 1930, a monument was erected in Victoria Park, Edmonton. It states: "Dedicated to the memory of Colonel C. Y. Weaver, D.S.O., M.L.A., a gallant gentleman and sportsman. Erected by his fellow cricketers, comrades-in-arms, sportsmen and friends, July 1931."

HENRY WISE WOOD

A cairn was erected in Carstairs park in 1959 by Alberta Wheat Pool to commemorate the services of a leading figure in the farm movement.

Henry Wise Wood was born in Missouri in 1860 and came to Alberta in 1905, taking a farm in the Carstairs district. He soon was prominent in the United Farmers of Alberta and was elected president in 1916. When the U.F.A. won the provincial election in 1921 he turned down the premiership, but remained active in the agricultural movement. He was responsible for the formation of the Alberta Wheat Pool and served as its chairman from 1923 to 1937. He was also president of the U.F.A., 1916-31, and president of the Canadian Council of Agriculture, 1917-23.

Mr. Wood retired to Carstairs and died on June 10, 1941.

HISTORIC EVENTS
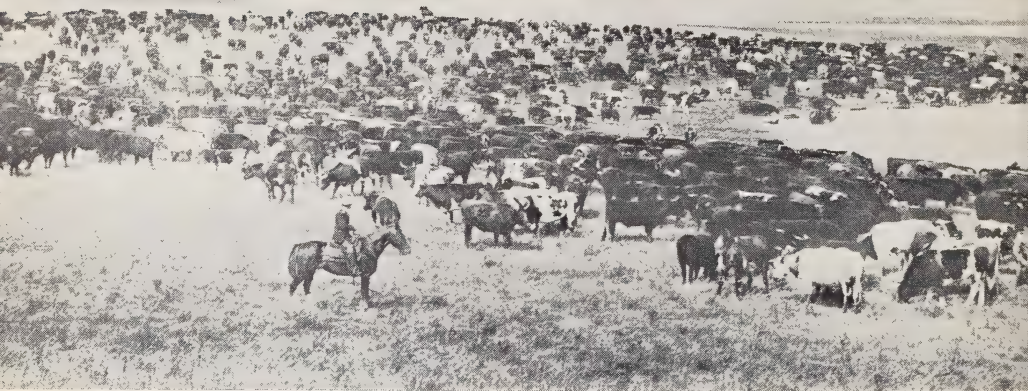
The Cochrane Ranch was one of the first major companies to enter Alberta after the disappearance of the buffalo. This view shows the last large roundup at Cochrane Lake in 1908.

CHAPTER 8

THE OVERLANDERS

When gold was discovered in British Columbia in 1857, it drew men from all parts of the globe to an unknown country.

Many of these men travelled overland, crossing unchartered forests and prairies to reach their destination. In 1859 and 1862 parties made the long overland journey through Canada, the former using the more southern Canadian passes.

The famous Overlander of '62 adopted the Yellowhead Pass, some descending the Fraser, while a smaller number followed the North Thompson.

All of these gold-seekers endured many hardships and only the most courageous and determined men reached the shores of the Pacific.

A cairn erected by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board at Jasper reads: "Commemorating the courage and daring of the parties of gold-seekers, numbering about 250, who in 1862 left their homes in Upper and Lower Canada and journeyed overland by way of Fort Garry and Edmonton to Kamloops and Cariboo, pioneering an immigrant road to British Columbia. The only organized overland immigration from eastern to western Canada prior to the era of railways."

FIRST COAL MINE

A cairn, erected in Galt Park, Lethbridge, pays tribute to the first coal mine in Alberta and to Nicholas Sheran, the man who developed it.

Nicholas Sheran was born in New York and came to the American fron-

tier following the Civil War. From Fort Benton he travelled across the line into Canada in 1870 with trader John Healy.

He came in search of gold, but instead found coal. He successfully opened and operated a mine until the time the Galts turned to the west to take a hand in the development of the new country. He drowned in 1882 while fording the Oldman River.

The cairn in Galt Park reads: "Cairn and tablet to mark the site of the first coal mine in Alberta. It was situated on the west bank of the Oldman River at the present site of the Federal Mine, and was operated by Nicholas Sheran in 1872."

EDMONTON HOTEL

A concrete replica fireplace and bench were erected by the City of Edmonton at the site of one of the first hotels west of Winnipeg.

Donald Ross came to Edmonton in 1872 and four years later opened a stopping house at the bottom of what is now McDougall Hill. This log building grew to become the Edmonton Hotel, and the Rossdale Flats commemorate the name of this pioneer.

HAY LAKES TELEGRAPH

A Provincial cairn, erected in 1960 near Hay Lakes, commemorates the first terminal of the Dominion Telegraph line in western Canada. It states: "Established in 1877 by James McKernan, this station was the farthest west on the telegraph line which ran along the proposed railroad right-of-way. When, in 1879, the line was extended to Fort Edmonton, this station was abandoned. The Hay Lakes cart trail from the plains to Fort Edmonton passed this site."

WALTER HOUSE

The oldest house in Edmonton is preserved as a museum on its original site in Walterdale Flats while around it the City is developing a historic park. A Provincial cairn at the site states: "This log house has seen Edmonton grow from a fur trading post to a large city. Built by John Walter in 1875, it was one of the first homes outside the walls of Fort Edmonton. It has served as a river ferry office, telegraph station, and a stopping house."

COCHRANE RANCH

The earliest major ranching enterprise in Alberta was that of the Cochrane Ranche Company (Limited), which established headquarters in 1881 about one mile west of the present town of Cochrane. The original ranch house still stands on private property.

The Cochrane Ranch received a dominion charter in May of 1881, giving it rights to 109,000 acres of rangeland. Lease holders paid only one cent per acre a year. Duty payments on cattle imports from the United States were exempt, to promote effective stocking of the rangelands.

In the first year the company imported several thousand head of cattle from Montana. Heavy losses were suffered that first winter and in 1882 the cattle headquarters was moved to another part of the leased range, near Waterton Lakes. After a series of initial setbacks the company concentrated on cattle, sheep and horse ranching in turn and eventually prospered.

In 1906 almost the entire block was sold to the Mormon Church. Selling price of $6 million made it the biggest land deal in Alberta up to that time.

Cochrane town was named by the C.P.R. after Senator Cochrane and Cochrane Lake in the same area was named after his manager son.

BOUNDARY MARKERS

By Dominion Order-in-Council of 1882, part of the vast North-West Territories was divided into four provisional districts, Alberta, Assiniboia, Saskatchewan and Athabasca.

These divisions remained until 1905 when the Provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan were created, in-corporating virtually all the lands of the four old districts.

A three-sided cairn located six miles south of Coronation marks the axis of three of the old districts, Alberta to the west, Saskatchewan to the northeast and Assiniboia to the southeast. The District of Athabasca extended from the 55th parallel, the northern boundary of Alberta and Saskatchewan, to the 66th parallel, a rectangular block stretching from the west coast to Hudson Bay.

Additional cairns to show geographical relation of one district with another have been erected as follows: On Highway No. 43 a short distance south of Valleyview, marking the northern boundary of the old District of Alberta, with the District of Athabasca to the north; on Highway No. 16 east of Innisfree, showing the dividing line between Alberta to the west and Saskatchewan to the east; on Highway No. 1 near Alderson, marking the boundary of Assiniboia which lay to the east and Alberta to the west.

FOURTH MERIDAN

A Provincial Government cairn has been placed on the fourth Meridian at the Saskatchewan-Alberta boundary on Highway No. 1 to mark the control line for surveys in Alberta. It was from this line that surveys for townships and sections were made.

ROCKY MOUNTAINS PARK

A Provincial sign at the entrance to Banff National Park states in part: "In Nov. 1885 an area of ten square miles surrounding the Hot Springs was set aside for park purposes by the Canadian Government. Two years

Before the provinces were formed the west was divided into the districts of Alberta, Saskatchewan, Assiniboia and Athabasca. Four cairns in this province mark the edges of these old boundaries.

A cairn on the grounds of the Mormon temple in Cardston pays tribute to the arrival of the first Mormon settlers from Utah in 1887.

later, on June 23, 1887, it officially became Rocky Mountains Park—the first national park in Canada."

ARRIVAL OF THE MORMONS

Four cairns in southern Alberta pay tribute to the arrival of the first Mormon settlers in 1887. These consist of a local cairn in Cardston near Lee's Creek (now damaged), a monument on the grounds of the Mormon temple, Cardston, a cairn at the International Boundary at the point where the Mormon settlers first reached Canada, and a Provincial Government cairn in front of the C. O. Card home, Cardston.

About 40 Mormons, led by Charles Ora Card, arrived at the site of Cardston on June 3, 1887, after travelling across the unsurveyed prairies and mountains from Utah. For the first winter they lived on the scanty crops they planted and

the supplies brought from the United States. This original group was later followed by others until a large Mormon population had settled in southern Alberta.

The home built by C. O. Card in 1887 is still standing on Cardston's main street and is preserved by the Town.

FIRST CHEESE FACTORY

A sign has been erected near the original site of Alberta's first cheese factory, which was constructed in 1888 by Ebenezer Healy on his homestead near Springbank, 18 miles west of Calgary.

Healy was born in Nova Scotia, coming west in 1882. He lived in Regina until 1887, when he moved by covered wagon to the homestead near Calgary. He brought 20 head of dairy cattle and was a successful dairy rancher until 1888, when overproduc-

53

tion of milk was the main problem in the district. To solve the problem, Healy constructed a cheese factory on his farm and operated it successfully until 1896, when it was converted into a cream separating station.

UKRAINIAN PIONEERS

The Ukrainians were one of the largest nationality groups to settle in northern Alberta during the great immigration period immediately before and after the turn of the century.

The first two Ukrainians in Canada were Wasyl Eleniak and Ivan Pylypiwsky who arrived in 1891, coming first to Manitoba and later to Alberta. After they told of life in the new land, hundreds of other settlers began to arrive. Many of them brought old world skills in agriculture, built Ukrainian thatched cottages, and carved a successful life from the wilderness.

A replica of a Ukrainian home was opened in Elk Island National Park in 1951 and contains objects relating to eastern European culture. In addition, a local cairn was erected in Chipman, the home of Wasyl Eleniak, to commemorate the contribution of Ukrainian pioneers.

FIRST IRRIGATION PROJECT

A cairn in Magrath commemorates the first large scale irrigation project in Canada. Developed by the Galt interests and the Mormons it heralded the beginning of irrigation in southern Alberta.

The plaque states in part: "Promoted by Elliott T. Galt, Charles Alexander Magrath and Charles Ora Card, and aided by the Dominion

A replica of an early Ukrainian home was constructed at Elk Island Park to display the arts and culture of this pioneer group. It is furnished with hand made articles and implements, some of which were brought from the Ukraine.

In 1903 a portion of Turtle Mountain crumbled and swept across the valley of the Crowsnest Pass. The slide killed about 70 people and destroyed the eastern edge of the town of Frank. It stands today as a reminder of the grim tragedy.

Government, the first large-scale irrigation system in Canada was inaugurated with the opening of the Magrath headgates by the Alberta Railway and Irrigation Co. on 14th November, 1899. It extended for ninety miles from Kimball to Lethbridge and beyond."

JOHN WARE CABIN

The log cabin of Alberta's noted Negro cowboy, John Ware, has been preserved as a historic site at Dinosaur Provincial Park on the Red Deer River.

Born in the southern U.S., Ware came to Alberta with a cattle drive in 1883. He was a top cowhand, expert with tough broncos and good with a rope. He bought a ranch on Sheep Creek in 1891 and moved north to the Red Deer River country at the turn of the century. His log cabin was built in 1903, two years before his death in a riding accident.

FRANK SLIDE

Two historic highway signs have been erected to commemorate the disaster of the Frank Slide, in the Crowsnest Pass, which took the lives of more than 70 persons in 1903.

Frank was one of the first communities in the Pass and most of its inhabitants were engaged in coal mining. But on April 29, 1903, a section of Turtle Mountain crumbled into the valley, partially destroying the town and forcing the abandonment of the remainder.

The sign states: "Disaster struck the town of Frank at 4:10 a.m., April 29th, 1903, when a gigantic wedge of limestone, 2,100 feet high, 3,000 feet wide and 500 feet thick, crashed down from Turtle Mountain. Ninety million tons of rock swept over a mile of valley, destroying part of the town, taking 70 lives, and burying an entire mine plant and railway in approximately 100 seconds. The old town

55

was located at the western edge of the slide where many cellars still are visible."

BARR COLONISTS

A rustic sign on Highway No. 16, near Lloydminster, tells of the settlement of the region by Barr Colonists. In 1903 and 1904, almost two thousand settlers from England came overland from the railhead in Saskatchewan, or eastward down the Saskatchewan River from Edmonton to settle on homesteads. Rev. J. E. Lloyd, an Anglican minister, gave them the inspiration and leadership needed during their years of hardship. Lloydminster is named in his honor.

FIRST ALBERTA LEGISLATURE

Twenty-five elected representatives gathered in the Thistle Rink in Edmonton on March 15, 1906, to conduct the first session of the First Alberta Legislature. The rink was chosen because there was no other public meeting place with sufficient size and facilities to accommodate crowds at the inaugural occasion.

The first Lieutenant-Governor was G. H. V. Bulyea and the first government, Liberal, was led by Hon. A. C. Rutherford. His cabinet included Hon. C. W. Cushing, Minister of Public Works; Hon C. W. Cross, Attorney General; Hon. W. T. Finlay, Minister of Agriculture and Provincial Secretary; and Hon. L. G. DeVeber, Minister Without Portfolio.

Among the most pressing matters to be considered were the locale of the provincial capital, site and design for a permanent legislative building, and general organization of a new

A monument in front of the Legislative Building, Edmonton, commemorates the formation of the Province of Alberta in 1905 and the first meeting of its legislature.

provincial administration. Centres considered for the provincial capital included Edmonton, Red Deer, Calgary and Banff. Edmonton was chosen by a vote of 16-8. Excavation for the present legislative building began in August of 1907.

The first provincial traffic regulations were established by that initial legislature. The speed limit for motor vehicles was set at 20 miles per hour, reduced to 10 miles per hour when overtaking horse drawn vehicles. For meeting horse drawn vehicles the limit was further reduced to five miles per hour.

A cairn paying tribute to the First Alberta Legislature was erected by the National Historic Sites and Monuments Board, opposite the main door of the present Legislative Building.

TRANSPORTATION
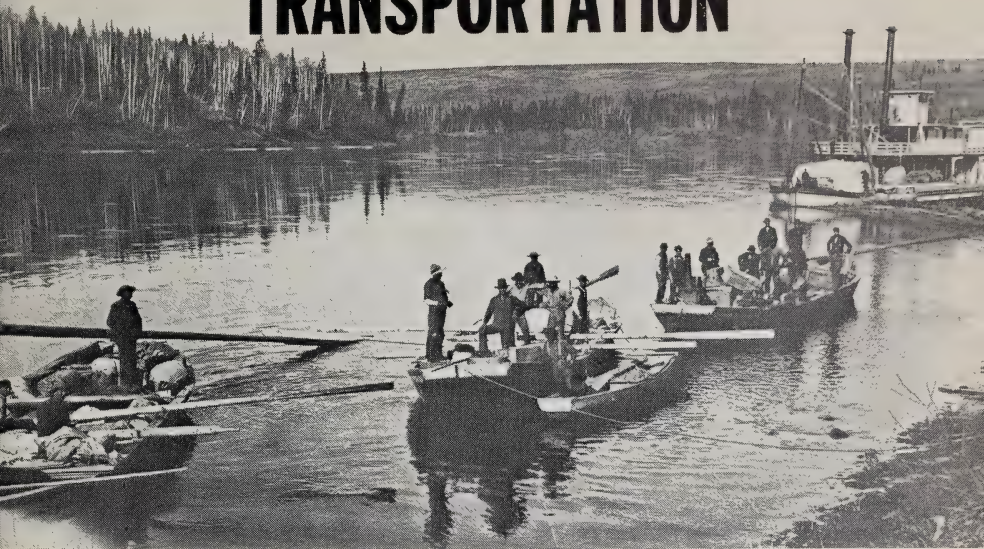
Athabasca Landing was an important point for traders going into the northland   The steamer "Athabasca" is docked while a small flotilla of boats sets off in 1899.

CHAPTER 9

ALASKA HIGHWAY

A Provincial sign on Highway 43, just north of St. Albert, commemorates the wartime construction of a route to Alaska. After the attack at Pearl Harbor, fears were expressed that the Japanese would invade through Alaska. In just eight months and thirteen days, a route 1,523 miles long was built northward into Fairbanks.

ATHABASCA LANDING

Athabasca Landing played an important part in early history as a distributing post, rather than as a fur trading centre. In 1884, the Hudson's Bay Company established a post to supply its northern forts.

In later years, Athabasca became important to other companies dealing in the north. Supplies were freighted here during the winter and stored until the opening of navigation in the spring.

A Provincial Government cairn commemorates the part played by the Landing in northern history.

ATHABASCA RIVER

Two rustic highway signs—one near Hinton and the other near Athabasca—pay tribute to the great water route along the Athabasca River. One sign says in part: "After the discovery of the Athabasca Pass in 1810-11, famous explorers, untiring voyageurs and resolute fur traders followed this river to its source in the Rockies; then made the gruelling trek

57

over wind-swept mountain passes to the Pacific. This river remained as part of the great Trans-Canada route until the completion of the railway in 1885."

BENTON-WHOOP-UP TRAIL

An early overland trading route to Alberta was the Benton Trail, which connected Fort Whoop-Up, near the present city of Lethbridge to Fort Benton, in Montana Territory. This route was developed in 1869 when Fort Benton interests opened a fort in Canadian territory.

This route became an important immigrant trail for settlers coming to Alberta from the United States and later extended north to Calgary. It can be generally traced by No. 2 Highway from Calgary to Fort Macleod and across the Blood Reserve to Lethbridge; No. 4 Highway from Lethbridge to Coutts, and by the American No. 91 Highway from Sweetgrass to Shelby and on to Fort Benton.

A cairn erected at Coutts by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board and a rustic sign erected by the Alberta Government pay tribute to this early overland trail.

CALGARY-EDMONTON TRAIL

The Calgary - Edmonton Trail, as we know it today, was made in 1875. But the main credit goes to Rev. John McDougall and his brother David, who cut out the northern half of the route in 1873 when making a cart road from Fort Edmonton to Morley. It followed an old Indian trail past the Bear Hills, across the Red Deer River and down to Morley. After the establishment of Fort Calgary in 1875, the route branched at Olds and

The Calgary-Edmonton stagecoach is ready for its northward trip in 1890. It was a four-day journey to the northern centre.

A train of carts from Edmonton arrive in Calgary with a shipment of furs valued at $75,000. These are waiting to be loaded on the C.P.R. boxcars for shipment to the eastern markets.

went directly south along the route of modern Highway No. 2.

The first mail service between Calgary and Edmonton started in July, 1883, with a wagon making fortnightly trips to carry light freight, Royal Mail and passengers. The first stage-coach passenger service started in the following month, making the trip in five days each way.

The first survey of the trail was made in 1886 when the surveyor somewhat prophetically, stated: "Great traffic and immense travel some day may be done this way." After the construction of the C. & E. Railway in 1891, the trail lost much of its popularity for several years until the automobile became the popular mode of travel.

Signs commemorating this trail have been erected on the outskirts of Calgary and Edmonton by the Alberta Government. Another sign north of Wetaskiwin pays tribute to the build-

ing of the Calgary and Edmonton Railway.

EDSON TRAIL

A rustic sign on Highway No. 43 north of Whitecourt, pays tribute to the first major trail of settlers into the Peace River country. After the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway reached Edson in 1911, a trail was cut through 200 miles of wilderness to Sturgeon Lake and on to Grande Prairie. Hundreds of pioneers followed this route until the completion of a northern railway in 1916.

KLONDIKE TRAIL

The madness of the Yukon gold rush in 1897-98 left its mark in far-removed Alberta. Some 2,000 gold seekers from all parts of the world used the end of the railway line at Edmonton as a jumping-off point in their northward scramble to the Yukon. Many used the well defined Assiniboine Trail to Fort Assiniboine

on the Athabasca River and then struck off north and westward over the Swan Hills wilderness.

From the Peace River country they pushed on toward their goal, over a route which presented unbelievable obstacles. The year-long journey would have taxed even the most seasoned travellers of the north, and for the inexperienced trekkers it spelled stark disaster.

Only a handful ever completed the journey. The trail was dotted with graves of those who had tried but failed.

A historic sign marking the trail is located on Highway No. 18 between Barrhead and Fort Assiniboine.

LAST OF THE 5900's

A cairn was unveiled in 1960 at Mewata Park, Calgary, beside one of the last steam locomotives used in the Canadian Rockies. It states in part: "Locomotives of this type were used by the C.P.R. to wheel trains over the mountains between Calgary and Revelstoke, B.C., in the days of steam power. They were known as the Selkirks after one of the mountain ranges to which their exhausts barked defiance. The first of a fleet of 35 was built in Montreal in 1929 and they were the largest locomotives in the British Commonwealth."

MACKENZIE HIGHWAY

A rustic highway sign pays tribute to a road from Grimshaw to Hay River, N.W.T., built in 1948. This was the first major road into the Northwest Territories and was named after the famous explorer Alexander Mackenzie.

NORTH SASKATCHEWAN RIVER

Two highway signs commemorate the importance of the North Saskatchewan River as a transportation route. The sign near Lavoy states in part: "During the late 1700's and throughopt the 1800's this river was part of the first transcontinental route over which the fur traders, explorers and missionaries travelled into the heart of the Canadian west."

RED DEER CROSSING

A local cairn was unveiled in 1951 in memory of old Red Deer Crossing, three and one-half miles upstream from Red Deer, on the site of the first settlement on the Calgary-Edmonton trail.

The trail developed from an Indian and missionary route from Dog Pound to Lone Pine and crossed the Red Deer River at the safest spot all year 'round. In 1883, G. C. King built a small trading post at the crossing. It was bought by Rev. Leonard Gaetz in 1884, who held it during the uneasy times of the Riel Rebellion.

WINNIPEG TRAIL

A cairn located near St. Brides at the junction of the Highways No. 36 and No. 28 marks the route of overland freighting from the Red River country to Edmonton in these words: "Near this point the highway crosses the old Winnipeg Trail. It was used extensively by explorers, traders and missionaries until the railway superseded it as the important transportation link between Edmonton and Winnipeg. The automobile and the modern highway result in its passing, forever, from the Alberta scene."

Index

KEY TO MAP

1. Plains buffalo
2. Early man site
3. Writing-on-Stone
4. Ribstones
5. Crowfoot memorial
6. Red Crow memorial
7. Maskepetoon sign
8. Poundmaker cairn
9. Massacre Butte
10. Peace Hills
11. Last Indian battle
12. Treaty No. Seven
13. Treaty No. Eight
14. Cree Indian memorial
15 Tail Creek settlement
16. Anthony Henday cairn
17. David Thompson cairn
18. Fort Assiniboine
19. Buckingham House
20. Fort Chipewyan
21. Fort de l'Isle
22. Fort Dunvegan
23. Forts Edmonton and Augustus
24. Fort Fork
25. Fort George
26. Henry House
27. Jasper House
28. McLeod's Fort
29. Methye Portage cairn
30. Paint Creek House
31. Peigan Post
32. Rocky Mountain House
33. Victoria Post
34. Fort White Earth
35. Rev. Rundle cairn
36. Lac Ste. Anne mission
37. Rev. Steinhauer cairn
38. Father Lacombe memorials
39. McDougall church
40. Morley church
41. Our Lady of Peace mission
42. Old Hermitage
43. Rev. George McDougall cairn
44. St. Charles mission
45. Rev. Brick plaque
46. Springbank church
47. Victoria mission
48. Fort Whoop-Up
49. Standoff
50. Spitzee Post
51. Fort Macleod
52. Fort Saskatchewan
53. Fort Calgary
54. Jerry Potts sign
55. Cst. Graburn cairn
56. Murder of Sgt. Wilde sign
57. Frog Lake massacre site
58. Alberta Field Force cairn
59. Fort Normandeau
60. Fort Ostell sign
61. Fort Ethier
62. W. D. Albright cairn
63. R. B. Bennett cairn
64. Dr. Braithwaite cairn
65. "Kootenai" Brown cairn
66. Edith Cavell memorial
67. Ralph Connor cairn
68. "Twelve-Foot" Davis' grave
69. Dowling cairn
70. L. Garneau cairn
71. J. M. Gibbon cairn
72. Haultain cairn
73. S. Lawrence memorial
74. Dr. McIntyre plaques
75. Mrs. L. C. McKinney plaque
76. C. A. Magrath cairn
77. Emily Murphy plaques
78. Frank Oliver memorials
79. S. Stephansson cairn
80. H. Stutchbury memorial
81. Col. Weaver plaque
82. H. W. Wood cairn
83. The Overlanders
84. First coal mine cairn
85. Edmonton Hotel cairn
86. Hay Lakes telegraph cairn
87. Walter house
88. Cochrane Ranch house
89. Boundary markers
90. Rocky Mountains Park sign
91. Arrival of Mormons memorials
92. First cheese factory sign
93. Ukrainian pioneers memorials
94. First irrigation project cairn
95. John Ware cabin
96. Frank slide
97. Barr colonists sign
98. First Alberta legislature cairn
99. Alaska Highway sign
100. Athabasca Landing cairn
101. Athabasca River signs
102. Benton-Whoop-Up Trail cairn
103. Calgary-Edmonton Trail signs
104. Edson Trail
105. Klondike Trail
106. Last of the 5900's
107. Mackenzie Highway sign
108. North Saskatchewan River sign
109. Red Deer Crossing cairn
110. Winnipeg Trail cairn

Wood Buffalo National Park

HAY LAKES

Lake
Athabasca

FT. CHIPEWYAN
20

Claire
Lake

FT. VERMILION

McMURRAY 29

Peace River

Athabasca River

45 73
62
107
28 68
24
22 44
PEACE RIVER

Lesser Slave Lake

13
106

GRANDE PRAIRIE
89
VALLEYVIEW

37
ST. PAUL

47 93
34 133
28

110 19 57
25 30

23 52
99 1 93
38 108
89
LLOYDMINSTER
97

18
105

104

36
EDSON
16

ATHABASCA
100 101

23, 39, 42, 58
64, 70, 74, 77
78, 80, 81, 85
87, 98, 103
EDMONTON

North Sask. River

27 26
83 17
66

Athabasca River

Jasper National Park

101

61 86
38 4
7
14
60
10

32
16
59 15
79 109
RED DEER

17
CORONATION
89

Guide

to

HISTORIC SITES

of

ALBERTA

(FOR KEY SEE FACING PAGE)

Banff National Park

82

71 69
35
67 31
40 88 43
90
41
38
CALGARY
46, 53, 63, 92
103, 106
95

GLEICHEN
5 12 8

50

Bow River

S. Sask. River

7 75
FORT MACLEOD
2
9
96
PINCHER CREEK
56
51 72
48
49 6
91
65
91
11, 76
84
LETHBRIDGE
94
54
102
3
89
MEDICINE HAT
55

63